FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT RECEIVES 'IMPORTANT' LETTER FROM SOVIET LEADERS

JN030608Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 0530 GMT 3 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, last night received Soviet ambassador in Beirut, Aleksandar Soldatov.

The radio correspondent has learned that the Soviet ambassador delivered to brother Abu 'Ammar an important letter from the Soviet leaders. During the meeting, they also discussed the latest developments in the current situation on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels.

PALESTINIAN DELEGATION TO HOLD TALKS IN BAGHDAD

NC022020Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 2 Jan 79 NC

[Text] A Palestinian delegation led by Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, left for Baghdad today to hold discussions with Iraqi officials.

Our radio correspondent reports that the discussions will deal with Palestinian-Iraqi relations and ways of confronting the treasonous results of Camp David in the light of the resolutions of the Arab summit conference which was held recently in Baghdad.

The delegation includes PLO executive committee member Yasir Adib 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO official spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan, and Fatah official in charge of foreign relations, Muhammad Abu Mayzar.

VOICE OF PALESTINE REPORTS REVOLUTIONARY OPERATIONS IN ISRAEL

NC022005Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 2 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpt] One of our revolutionaries attacked an enemy bus in the central square of Gaza City. Our revolutionary used incendiary hand grenades, destroying and burning the bus and wounding a number of enemy soldiers.

A group of our revolutionaries placed timed explosive charges in the entrance of the (Kern) theater in Beersheba city. The enemy forces discovered the charges shortly before they were due to go off.

The military spokesman of the general command of the Palestinian revolution forces stated this in two military communiques which he issued today.

INA: FEDAYEEN ATTACK ZIONIST MILITARY BUS IN GAZA

JN021849Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 2 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 2 January--A number of Zionist enemy soldiers were seriously wounded during an attack on a military bus with incendiary hand grenades by Arab fedayeen operating inside the occupied homeland in the main square in Gaza last evening.

The Palestinian News Agency reported that the bus was completely destroyed.

'ARAFAT TALKS TO PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT IN BEIRUT

JN291505Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1415 GMT 29 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar has asserted that the PLO--despite the large number of its enemies--is confident about the future because of the support of its many friends, among whom is the Soviet Union.

In an interview with the correspondent of PRAVDA in Beirut, on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, brother Abu 'Ammar condemned the course of the Egyptian regime's ruler, Anwar as-Sadat, and accused him of following a policy of treason. He added that after signing the Camp David accords, As-Sadat is trying to deal a blow to the struggle of the Arab people in Palestine as well as to the other Arab peoples.

The general commander further said: Our enemies will not succeed in stopping our march of struggle toward national liberation, regardless of what they may do, because the masses of the Palestinian people will increase the cohesion of their ranks.

Abu 'Ammar said that since the signing of the capitulatory Camp David agreements, much has been done to consolidate unity and cooperation among the various factions of the Palestinian revolution under the PLO leadership.

At the conclusion of his interview with Soviet PRAVDA, Abu 'Ammar praised the success achieved by the celebration held on 29 November, the world day of solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people's struggle.

KUWAITI PAPER AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM INTERVIEWS PLO'S QADDUMI

LD010959Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Jan--The Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM quotes head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi as saying that the PLO is prepared to conduct a dialog with the United States on the Middle East crisis if Washington extends an invitation to the PLO to this effect.

In an interview with the newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, published today, Qaddumi expressed his readiness to go to the United States if an invitation is extended from the U.S. Government and provided that the dialog be with U.S. President Carter, secretary of state Cyrus Vance, or national security adviser Zbigniew Brezezinski.

Qaddumi said that the Camp David agreements will not provide any opportunities for solving the Middle East crisis. He emphasized the PLO's rejection of these agreements.

Asked about the formation of a Palestinian government in exile, Qaddumi expressed his support for the formation of such a government, which would lead to the establishment of closer relations with the various fraternal and friendly countries.

Qaddumi added that there are many Arab states that support the establishment of such a government. However, he explained that all this is up to the Palestine National Council.

Asked about the Palestinian-Jordanian dialog, Qaddumi said that the PLO and Jordan have agreed to raise the level of representation between the two sides. The PLO will have a representative in Amman in addition to the director general of the PLO office already there. He added that Mr 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya will be the PLO representative in Amman and that he will take up his post after the meeting of the Palestine National Council on 15 January 1979.

Asked about Palestinian-Iraqi relations, Qaddumi said that they are proceeding normally and that these relations are being strengthened for the good of the pan-Arab cause.

On the other hand, Mr Qaddumi praised Kuwait's stand toward the PLO and its role in support of the Arab ranks. He said that the PLO will open new offices in 1979 in Angola, Mozambique, Finland, Venezuela and other African and Latin American countries.

PALESTINIANS CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR NETANYA EXPLOSION

JN3116107 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1415 GMT 31 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Our fighters this morning detonated timed explosive charges at the entrance of a shop near a bus station in Netanya suburb. The explosion caused material and human losses.

This was stated by the military spokesman of the general command of the Palestinian revolution forces. He said: One of our special groups at dawn today managed, despite stringent security measures imposed by the enemy on all occupied Palestinian towns, to plant highly times explosive charges at the entrance of a shop near a military bus station [word indistinct] in Netanya in Tel Aviv. At about 0700 today, the explosive charges went off, killing or wounding about six Zionists, destroying a military bus and shattering the glass of adjacent shops.

Zionist security and policemen rushed to the area. Ambulances also rushed to the area to remove the killed and wounded. The police cordoned off the area and [word indistinct] in search for our fighters. The police arrested many Palestinian citizens. Our group returned safely to base.

BAHRAIN

DELEGATION TO BOUMEDIENE'S FUNERAL RETURNS HOME

JN300957Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0950 GMT 30 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpt] Manama, 30 December--Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah al Khalifah, minister of interior and acting foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Manama today after attending the funeral of late Algerian President Houari Boumediene.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS ON MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN ENVOY

LD021455Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today stated that the differences between Kuwait and Egypt on the Middle East crisis does not mean estrangement between them. [Word indistinct] Kuwait rejected the Camp David agreements signed by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin under the auspices of U.S. President Carter last September.

Following a meeting with Mamduh 'Abd ar-Razzaq, Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait, Shaykh as-Sabah said that contacts with Egypt are continuing "for the sake of the Arab cause." He told journalists that he reviewed bilateral relations with the ambassador and exchanged viewpoints with him concerning developments in the present Arab situation, particularly the Middle East question.

Shaykh as-Sabah said that the discussion during the meeting did not deal (?with) a possible Arab summit conference, and he denied that there were consultations among the Arab countries to convene a new Arab summit to follow the Baghdad summit held last November, which rejected the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreements.

EDITORS SIGN CHARTER ON PRESS' RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES

JN030844Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0830 GMT 3 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 3 January--The chief editors of 10 daily newspapers and weekly magazines in Kuwait have signed an honor charter consisting of 12 articles.

Kuwaiti papers today published the text of the charter, which emphasizes the need to protect the independence and freedom of the press, the secrets of the state, and not to publish any news harming the interests of the country or the principles of honesty, neutrality and objectivity.

The press action charter was signed by the chief editors of AL-WATAN, AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, AL-QABAS, AS-SIYASAH, KUWAIT TIMES, AL-ANBA', AT-TALI-AH, AR-RISALAH and SAWT AL-KHALIJ. The charter stipulates that "the secrets of the profession should be protected; it is impermissible to disclose the sources of news; and the newspapers should be united in defending the freedom of the press."

SAUDI ARABIA

CROWN PRINCE FAHD TO TOUR GULF STATES IN JANUARY

JN310815Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 31 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 31 December--The Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH quotes political sources as saying that Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz will tour a number of Arab Gulf states in January. The paper says the tour will cover Kuwait, Bahrain and the UAE.

'ISLAMIC FORCE' MUST COUNTER WORLDWIDE ANTI-MUSLIM PLOT

LD311309Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Dec 78 LD

[Hashim 'Abduh Hashim commentary]

[Excerpt] Saudi Arabia has categorically denounced the developments in the area and warned of the aims behind them. In so doing, the kingdom did not only give an assessment of the situation but also unmasked the ultimate objective of the disturbances and troubles besetting our Islamic world.

What is taking place in Iran is exactly the same as what is taking place in Turkey and in Eritrea, and in such a grinding manner at the expense of the Muslim forces there. Indeed, it is also taking place in other areas as well. We must realize that the tense conditions now prevailing in various parts of our Islamic world are no more than a link in the chain of horrible bloody strife that the external forces are planning with the aim of destroying the state of Islam and doing away with the gains of the great Islamic nation wherever it is to be found.

We in the Saudi Arabian kingdom feel the time has come for the Islamic states to take a firm stand, destroy the phenonmenon of suspicion and estrangement among their various forces, and draw the broad lines of the future, which portends more bloodshed and devastation. For this will come true unless we put a stop to such flouting and ambitions, and unanimously agree to set up an Islamic force capable of achieving victory.

JIDDA REFINERY INCREASES DAILY OUTPUT

LD031006Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Jidda petroleum refinery has recorded an increase in its daily average output. The output of units one and two of the refinery have reached 55,000 barrels daily--an increase of 10,000 barrels above the designated capacity of the two units. This was stated by engineer Mansur 'Abd ar-Rahman as-Suhaymi, assistant chairman of the administrative board for refinery production affairs. He explained that these two units were operating well--at an estimated 122 percent. He said: We are exerting efforts to raise the production level without exposing the units and their operators to any harm, as we are anxious to maintain petroleum products to the units' specification. Engineer as-Suhaymi expressed his joy at the high standard reached by the Saudi workers in the refinery and at their successful efforts that had led to good results. He stated that any progress realized by the refinery was the result of the efforts and devotion of the workers in carrying out their duties.

UAE

CHIEF OF STAFF RETURNS HOME FROM CAIRO

JN021742Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 January--Staff Maj Gen 'Awwad al-Khalidi, chief of staff of the armed forces, returned to Abu Dhabi from Cairo at noon today after attending the meetings of the board of directors of the Arab Military Industries Organization [AMIO].

Speaking to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, Al-Khalidi said that the AMIO board of directors, under the chairmanship of Brig Gen Shaykh Faysal al-Qasimi, acting chairman of the board of directors, and in the presence of the representatives of the organization's four members, discussed various present and future projects of the organization.

Major General al-Khalidi asserted that AMIO's projects are taking the normal course drawn up by the AMIO Higher Committee, which is composed of the defense ministers of the member states. He pointed out that the election of a new chairman for the board of directors will take place at the next meeting of the Higher Committee.

PRESIDENT ZAYID RECEIVES LETTER FROM AL-QADHDHAFI

JN030911Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 January--UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan has received a letter from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The letter was conveyed by Libyan Ambassador to the UAE 'Abd al-Qadir Ghawqah when President Zayid received him this morning.

YEMEN--PDRY

SAN'A' TROOPS LOSE 115 IN CLASHES WITH TRIBES

LD311522Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Dec 78 LD/EA

[Text] The People's Armed Revolutionary Forces in the northern part of the homeland have succeeded in killing or wounding 115 mercenaries of the agent reactionary San'a' regime and destroying two armored cars. They also seized large quantities of weapons, ammunition and other military equipment. This was stated in a report by the Democratic National Front [DNF] radio from the northern part of the homeland. The DNF radio said that the agent reactionary San'a' regime in the last week of this month launched a military raid against the Qayfah area of the Al-Sarhan, Al-Bayd and (Al-Khaddah) tribes.

The radio said that in this military raid, tanks, armored cars and heavy artillery were used as well as infantry. The aircraft of the agent reactionary clique made a number of raids, destroying 300 houses and 30 artesian wells. Hundreds of innocent people, including women, children and old people, were killed. Trees and crops were burned to the ground.

The DNF radio added that the People's Armed Revolutionary Forces courageously resisted these raids of extermination, killing, and destruction mounted by the agent reactionary San'a' clique against the citizens in various regions.

POLICE, SPECTATORS CLASH AT SPORTS FESTIVAL; FOUR KILLED

NC022123Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Jan 79 NC

[Text] An official source at the Cabinet has stated the following: The Agriculture College of Kafr ash-Shaykh University held a sports festival in the city's stadium this evening. More than 40,000 citizens went to the stadium to attend the festival--a number far beyond the capacity of the stadium. As a result, a large number of the spectators went to the parade ground. When the police force assigned to maintain order in the stadium tried to evict them from the parade ground, a clash took place between the police and a number of the citizens. Stones and teargas were used. Groups of citizens who were in the amphitheaters rushed forward to leave the stadium. As a result, four citizens were killed and eight injured.

The prime minister has been informed of the circumstances of the incident. His excellency ordered that 500 pounds be paid immediately to the family of each dead person and that suitable amounts be paid to the injured in accordance with their injuries. He also ordered that a comprehensive administrative investigation be carried out to pinpoint the responsibility and to firmly punish anyone proven to have been responsible for the incident. This is in addition to the criminal investigation that the public prosecution has begun. The prime minister has also asked the governor of Kafr ash-Shaykh to adopt necessary measures in light of the recent decision that delegate the powers of the president of the republic to the governors.

U.S. ENVOY ON PEACE TALKS RESUMPTION, AS-SADAT MEETING

NC022250Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 2 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 January--The U.S. ambassador in Cairo, Herman Eilts, has stated that he has been told nothing about Egypt's position on the resumption of the peace negotiations among Egypt, Israel and the United States, and that he does not know when a statement will be issued by Washington on the resumption. This came in statements made by the U.S. ambassador after President Anwar as-Sadat received him at the Suez Canal Authority's resthouse in Cairo yesterday. Eilts, who was answering questions by an ABC Television correspondent, also said that the discussions at his meeting with President as-Sadat were general and dealt with all aspects of the Middle East situation as well as the situation in Iran. In his statements, which AL-AHRAM will publish tomorrow, Eilts said he did not know whether the Egyptian Government would submit ideas about the negotiations, and that the United States is waiting for this.

GHALI ANSWERS QUESTION ON EGYPT'S DIPLOMATIC MOVES

NC030840Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Jan 79 NC

[From the "Listeners Mailbag" program; statement by Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali in answer to a question on Egypt's future diplomatic moves--recorded]

[Text] Egypt's diplomatic moves are based on the following principles: achievements of a just, permanent and comprehensive peace in the Middle East; contribution toward the achievement of prosperity; support for Arab and Islamic solidarity; support for African solidarity; consolidation of relations with all the nonalined peoples and states, and the establishment of balanced relations with all states on the basis of mutual respect and reciprocity.

These principles require action. Action on the Arab level requires that we overcome rejection, be it Arab, Palestinian or even Israeli rejection. Naturally, if a peace treaty is signed, it will be the first step in the series of other treaties that will be concluded between the Arab states and Israel. All these treaties, in accordance with the spirit of Camp David, will form a comprehensive settlement in the region.

On the African level, Egyptian diplomacy is preparing for a series of conferences. There is the African foreign ministers conference, which will be held in Nairobi in February. There is the African summit conference, which will be held in Monrovia. There is also the African-Arab conference, the venue of which has not yet been decided. This conference will discuss ways to consolidate further cooperation between African and Arab states, the foundations of which were laid in Cairo in March 1977.

On the nonalined level, several preparatory meetings will be held. The Coordinating Bureau of the Group of Nonalined States will meet either in Maputo, Mozambique or Colombo to prepare for the nonalined summit, which will be held in Havana, Cuba. Egypt has a clear stand on nonalinement: It is striving to protect it from the deviations recently displayed by some states.

On the international level, Egyptian diplomacy has carried out intensive activity at the United Nations and its specialized agencies such as UNESCO, the ILO and the International Civil Aviation Organization. We are represented in all these organizations. Egyptian experts work in these organizations. We have a leading role in these organizations. We are working to establish peace in the world and consolidate the new economic order and cooperation between the advanced North and the developing South. All these activities are within the framework of Egypt's diplomatic moves during 1979.

AL-AHRAM ON SAUDI'S DENIAL OF SAUDI-EGYPTIAN SUMMIT

NC010721Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 1 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 January--AL-AHRAM today comments on the denial by Information Minister Shaykh 'Abduh Yamani that King Khalid had called for a summit conference between him and President as-Sadat.

The paper says: It is very strange that the Saudi ambassador in Cairo should make a statement about a message he himself delivered, and then the information minister in Jidda should say something else a few hours later.

It is also very strange that the Saudi information minister should say that such matters are not decided by press departments or news agencies when he himself is in charge of this area and uses the SAUDI NEWS AGENCY to transmit his strange statement.

AL-AHRAM further says: Professionally, we tell him that we journalists in Egypt, like journalists in the civilized world, act as objective observers. This is how we acted when we communicated the statement by Saudi Ambassador Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Abu al-Khayl to all the papers and news agencies. Politically, we say with complete objectivity that we really do not understand the Saudi attitude.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM says: Finally, the important question is: Is Saudi Arabia keen on Arab solidarity or not?

AS-SADAT ADDRESSES EGYPTIAN STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

NC3017000Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 30 Dec 78 NC

[Speech delivered by President Anwar as-Sadat at his 30 December meeting with Egyptian students studying abroad--recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, it truly gives me great pleasure to meet with you today. Perhaps this meeting at this very moment and stage of our history and struggle is really an historic turning point--and for several reasons. The first is that at this particular stage of our history we are beginning to do what every honorable, strong nation has to do to rebuild itself. We may be a bit late in doing this. This is because, as you know, Egypt has a history of 7,000 years. The first government and first state was established here. The United States is only 200 years old. Egypt is 7,000 years' old, and it had the first government and state. This is at a time when there was no government or state in the world and when there was no concept of state or government. But for many reasons, as you know--and you are all students and have read the history of your country--our country was exposed to many invaders and colonialists before the 23 July 1952 revolution. No Egyptian ruled Egypt until 1952. For 2,000 years before 1952, the outbreak of our revolution, the ruler in Egypt was a foreigner, not an Egyptian. For the first time in 2,000 years we had Muhammad Najib, whom we appointed president of the republic. Then Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir became the first president of the republic to be elected by the people. So we had Najib and Jamal from Egypt.

I want to say that we have lagged behind. Of these 2,000 years, we were ruled for 400 years by the Turks. We all know the regrettable history of Turkish colonialism. You have all read that every type of colonialism or every empire left something to the world except the Turkish empire. The Turkish empire made no contribution; it destroyed the place it was in. This is what Salim [Ottoman sultan] did when he came here. He took all the artisans from Egypt to Istanbul. A characteristic of Turkish colonialism was destruction. We had 400 years of destruction, really.

Since I began the corrective movement on 15 May 1971, or about 7 or almost 8 years ago, I have been saying that the essence of democracy is not just the fact that I closed down the detention camps forever, promoted the supremacy of the law, or did not give any foreign power superior position in Egypt. An example of this is that when I felt the Soviets wanted a special position, I expelled 17,000 experts within 1 week so I could tell them: Stay in your place. I made them an example for others. It was not only the October war, the open-door policy, and not even the peace initiative and what it did in this world that restored our dignity. Perhaps you have sensed more than others the effect of this initiative on the outside world and on our cause, our being and our reputation as a civilized and noble people and nation. Not at all.

It was of interest to me in the first place and is still of interest to me, which is why I am happy that you are sharing this with me today. It is a matter of interest to me in the first place that the creative capabilities of every Egyptian should be released. I have said that there can be no democracy until this is achieved. All forms of democracy will be lacking without this. I want the Egyptian man, with his creative talents and capabilities, to surge forward toward building and creativity without any restriction.

This can only happen--this is my own assessment--by eliminating the concept of central government with which we have been living for the past 7,000 years up to today, up to just before I came to meet with you. I will tell you what I did 10 minutes before I came to meet with you.

Up until 10 minutes before I came to meet with you, we have been living with a central government. It is true that Egypt had the first state and the first government, as I told you, but it was a central government. Irrespective of where the capital was--Cairo or anyplace else--the central government has been ruling since the time of the pharoahs. The form of government has changed in the sense that the governor or the district commissioner was the representative of either the foreign colonialist, the Turkish colonialist, the khedive, the king, the parties after 1923, or the 23 July revolution. Fifteen minutes before I came to meet with you I abolished all this to allow the Egyptian man to release his creative talents. I am confident that within less than 200 years we shall do much better than what the United States has done, God willing, provided the talents and capabilities of every Egyptian are released under all guarantees of freedom, peace of mind and security.

Fifteen minutes before I came to you I signed the decree transferring the authority of the president of the republic to each governor in his governorate. The governor is not appointed as the pasha or commissioner used to be appointed in the past. No. He is one of the sons of the governorate. Now the governor of every governorate is like his brother in the United States and in all the countries where you study. In the provinces [used in English] the governor is elected in those countries, but he is a resident of these provinces. One of the sons of each governorate today assumes the unlimited authority of the president of the republic. I was discussing the subject with the vice president, the prime minister, and the governors of Cairo and Al-Jizah. The governors will assume unlimited authority, even to the extent of making contracts with other countries. The authority of the central government has proven to be sterile. It was impossible for it to rebuild--not only to rebuild, but to make anything. I discovered that I have, for example, something called the industrialization organization. I discovered that this industrialization organization--I mean that had I been a foreigner I would not have entered Egypt [incomplete sentence as heard]. Someone comes and wants to invest his own money here and wants to carry out a project; the industrialization organization says: No, this will threaten the public sector. When he proves that there is no threat to the public sector, they tell him: No, you will lose. This goes on for a year. Well, there is someone who wants to invest his money. He is free to do what he wants with his own money. Whether he loses or wins, is no problem to me. This is the problem of such people.

You have heard us talk about the administrative revolution. I advocated the transfer of authority. I knew from the beginning that the transfer of authority is the best way. This went on until Dr Mustafa Khalil assumed the premiership. It is really no exaggeration to say that I lost hope until Mustafa came and put me fully in the picture; consequently, I signed the decree about 15 minutes ago to transfer authority to the governors. Each governor and the sons of each governorate can now surge forward in every possible way. [applause]

This is not just a decision to transfer authority. Not at all. This will be a general mode. There will be complete freedom. I told them to make the day schools more open. The students will go out and see the industry, the good fields, and good sites of antiquity around them. [applause]

There will be complete freedom. If a university in one of the governorates wants to close down one college because another type of college would be better suited to its environmental needs, it will not be up to Cairo to adopt the decision. The governor--in coordination with the local council--will make the decision. The local council represents the small parliament in the governorate. The governor will also coordinate with the party in his decision because the governor is a member of the National Democratic Party, the top political official in his governorate and a political official of the party. However, we will not replace the dictatorship of Cairo with the dictatorship of the governor.

The governor, together with members of the People's Council in the governorate, the local council and his aides--the senior agricultural, irrigation, health, security and military officials--are responsible as a government to the local council, which is the parliament of the governorate. They will adopt the decisions they want to revive their governorate. They will be able to conclude contracts with the outside world. They can establish new colleges of close old colleges in the university in their governorate. They will have full power.

It is my opinion that this is the only way for Egypt to take off without any obstructions. The United States was able to accomplish everything it accomplished in 200 years. Europe helped in this by investing its surplus funds and by transferring its technology to the United States, which has everything. We here lack nothing. I talked to your brothers last winter after I appointed Faruq al-Baz [as scientific adviser] and we went around together. I told your brothers that we live on 4 percent of the land of Egypt. We neglected 96 percent of the land because we said it was desert. What would you say if I were to tell you that 90 percent of this desert is suitable for the new societies and arable and that only 6 percent is a mountainous area? [applause] I was in strained conditions, indeed. I do not like us to be introverted. I want us to be complete extroverts. We lived on this strip around the river when we were only 20 million. We are now 40 million and we are still living on this strip. We are about to explode internally at a time when there is land, water, sky, a good climate and all that God has granted us. These things are available for every one of the 40 million Egyptians. However, we prefer to live inside the narrow valley and quarrel with each other. This valley cannot take this any more. This is why I say that you have come at a historic turning point. All means of progress and development are made available to the sons of each governorate. They can utilize them in conjunction with their own governor, who is one of them and who comes from their own governorate. The central government will only intervene to give advice when asked by providing information on new technology in various fields. The central government will give advice, but it will not rule. No citizen in any governorate will need to go to Cairo to discharge any matter. I said this to the governors last week. I said that if I find out that a citizen in a governorate has come to Cairo to discharge a matter, the governor will be dismissed because this would mean he had completely failed in his duties. No citizen will go to Cairo and all government affairs such as the registration of real estate will be taken care of in the governorate. The discharge of certain matters is supposed to begin in the governorate and be completed here in Cairo. The citizen should never come to Cairo. He should transact his business through the governorate, which will complete the citizen's business. The citizen should come to Cairo only to have a good time or to educate his children.

On this basis and simply speaking, what I did today before coming to you is not a decision. It is a completely new mode to release the abilities, talent and will of every person in Egypt toward building himself because building himself and his generations means building Egypt, which is a step toward realizing the main goal, I am talking about today. This has been my goal since 15 May 1971, and I am reaffirming this goal by my decision today. This goal is that man should be the main target of any system, philosophy, ideology or regime.

Our goal today is the dignity of the Egyptian man, security, safety and freedom, the supremacy of the law and the release of the Egyptian's ability to serve himself and all Egypt. The Egyptians must give the state its due or else I will take him by the throat because the state must receive its due so I can spend it on services. I believe we are at a takeoff point. As of 1 January, there will be a takeoff that will disregard anything else in any direction. Anyone of you can go to Sinai and see the land and minerals we have there. Sinai comprises 90 percent of Egypt's land and we are neglecting that 90 percent. Sinai has water and the land there is arable. Anyone who wants to go anywhere and then tells me that he want to settle here, I will tell him to do so. He can do whatever he wants. I will provide him with the state's full protection.

The goal of the regime must be man himself in accordance with the basis I have laid down. Man's dignity was not the goal before, not even during the era of party democracy that existed before 23 July 1952. The goal then was to serve the ruling class, which consisted of the party leaders, their associates and their favorites. The target was not the people as a whole. We seek the dignity of the Egyptian man, security and safety. I am confident that his production and sacrifices will be boundless. I have no doubts at all about this.

This is why I told you in the first part of my speech that we are really meeting on a day that marks a historic turning point because I signed the decision only 30 minutes before coming here.

What is the situation today? The last time I spoke was on 25 December. I was in my village. I spoke then about the three main duties which preoccupy us now and must preoccupy us throughout the next phase. Each must offer what he can. The first phase is the building of peace; the second is the building of democracy; the third is the building of prosperity. I cannot separate the building of peace from the other two. I cannot do this at all. They are all proceeding together and must proceed together.

Regarding the building of peace, you may, perhaps, be able to tell us about the effect of the initiative abroad because you live abroad. I will not say much about what has been accomplished. Perhaps you have been keeping closer track of the accomplishments than the Egyptians here because we here do not read all that is written abroad. The people do not read everything, but you are aware of what has been accomplished abroad. We are fully following up these accomplishments. The process has ended. Within 10 months of the initiative, we brought Begin to Camp David and concluded the two Camp David agreements. The first relates to the comprehensive settlement and the second relates to the Egyptian-Israeli settlement.

In my last letter to Begin 10 days ago, I told him: We spoke at Camp David, as you remember, I do not want to conclude a separate agreement, a disengagement or a partial solution with you. I told you this in the presence of the U.S. President. We thank God that we had the U.S. President as a witness because I am confident that Israel would have denied many things about the present disagreement had the U.S. President not been a witness. He was a witness. I told Begin: The U.S. President is a witness. I told you that I would not conclude a separate agreement, a partial solution or a third disengagement. I want a comprehensive, durable peace. I want a comprehensive peace that will cover all of us. There will be no peace without this.

The recent situation after Camp David was the result of a disagreement over two or three main points. The first was a difference over a timetable regarding linkage and the Sinai agreement. I believe you all know that in accordance with the second Camp David document, we have no problems over Sinai. The question of land, sovereignty and everything has been settled. We are ready to take it over. We have also settled the question of the Knesset's position on the settlements. There is no problem regarding Sinai. The problem is that I cannot settle the question of Sinai and leave the main issue, which is the core of the conflict--the Palestinian question. This is true no matter what the Palestinians and the rejectionist front say. I do not care what they say. What concerns me is Egypt's historic responsibility and it's position. This is why I believe that if many Arab rulers had any sense of shame, they would have died of this shame. Regrettably, however, they have no such sense of shame. They can see that the battle between me and Israel is not over Sinai. The question of the land, sky, and border of Sinai has been settled. This is all known and has been announced.

Our taking over of Sinai is only a matter of time. We will receive the area extending from Al-'Arish to Ra's Muhammad within 6-9 months. We said the first line will be Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad and we will receive it in 6-9 months. This will give us back 5/6 of Sinai. What will remain is 1/6, which we will take over after 1 year or a little more than 1 year. We will then reach the international border. We will take back Sinai, its petroleum, gas, wealth, land and everything else. Had they been ashamed at all, some of them would have died of shame because I am not concluding a separate agreement.

I have secured the return of 5/6 of Sinai and I am working for the return of the final 1/6. The problem will then end. Why not solve the Palestinian problem on the basis of establishing autonomy on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in the first stage? This is the main point in the problem. The second point is that Israel demands that the agreement to be concluded with us should take precedence over other agreements. This is unjustifiable; nobody in the world could accept such a demand. It is a kind of outbidding on Israel's part. You are aware of Israel's methods. The main point is that of linkage. The remainder is routine talk and constitutes no problem. The talk about the reconsideration of the security measures is not an issue. The only issue is linking the Sinai agreement with a timetable on autonomy and the solution of the Palestinian question. To be clear, I am telling you that we will not sign an agreement with Israel without linking the first phase of our agreement with all the other phases related to Gaza and the West Bank. This is true despite the position of the Palestinians, the rejectionist fronts and the charlatans. [applause] We got used to the things they say during the first and second disengagement agreements and after the peace initiative and the Camp David meeting. None of them can change anything, but Egypt can actually do everything. Therefore, we act on the basis of our own concept and our responsibility of leadership in this world--the Arab world or the Middle East.

A quick glance today at the Middle East will show us the afflictions that have befallen Turkey and Iran. Every Arab state has its troubles. All of you know about the dragging of bodies in Iraq, where the detention camps are open 24 hours a day. There is Al-Mazza Prison in Syria, where executions and physical liquidations are taking place. In Syria, there is an informer spying on every Syrian. In other words, there is a Syrian spying on every other Syrian. Egypt is the island of security, democracy and safety in this entire area. [applause] I am happy about this. Indeed, I am very happy. We are moving here to the wide horizons--the takeoff where we do not stop. We are proceeding with the building because we have indeed proved that we are ready to occupy our proper place among the big and strong states in the world. We are ready to occupy our place among the serious states and not the jesting states we see around us.

This is the first duty, which is the peace duty. I told you we believe that all points of disagreement are nonsense except for the questions of linkage. This is a question of principle, and we will not agree to sign anything without this linkage.

The second duty is the building of democracy. I am happy because for the first time in 7,000 years we are releasing the abilities of the Egyptian man and insuring him through upholding the supremacy of law and safeguarding his dignity. We are also correcting erroneous concepts. All of you know that a foreign imperialist ruled the land of Egypt with iron and fire for 2,000 years. An incomplete independence was granted in 1922 in accordance with the 28 February declaration. Regrettably, our rulers then preoccupied themselves with the constitution and neglected the main task--expelling the British imperialist and the king. The worst thing they did was to make us conceive of political life as meaning that a multiplicity of parties under a democracy meant the multiplicity of hostility and that each party must strike the other parties by attacking their honor and honesty in all directions. Their only object was to bring their party to power, and therefore it was permissible for their party to suck the blood of the opposition parties.

There might some oldtimers among you who will remember this. No, no. The majority of you are, praise be to God, young men. Among the things we heard which agitated us, including myself, was that occupation at the hands of Sa'd is better than independence at the hands of 'Adli. This was a crime against the people's values. Everybody knows that our people are loyal and are attached to their leaders. This has been the quality of our people since the pharaohs. The pharaoh was called the pharaoh and was worshipped at one time. When our people moved to a new stage, they liked to have a good leader whom they trust. This is the way and mode of our people. When they trust a leader, they give him everything. The old politicians exploited this quality and instead of exploiting it for the people's well-being, they said: We accept occupation at the hands of Sa'd and refuse independence at the hands of 'Adli. I do not know Sa'd or 'Adli. On the contrary, I like Sa'd very much and know nothing about 'Adli and have no connections with him.

We are now rebuilding Egypt to stand as one of the great world states. We are now embarking on the takeoff. When you return, you will have your responsibility to see that we complete this takeoff. We are embarking on the takeoff of a great state, a state more ancient than any of the superstates in the world. It is more ancient because it has a history of 7,000 years. [applause] I believe that it is time to say that what happened in the past was a crime because it was a tampering with the values of the people. The people want to be loyal to their leader. Let us not exploit this loyalty to mislead the people and tell them: As long as you like the leader, then let him bring you occupation rather than independence at the hands of the other.

This is why I reformed the democratic situation and the concepts of democracy. During Lasiotwek's visit, I announced the end of bitterness among all families over the results of the 1923 elections and until the revolution and after the revolution when there was bitterness in the revolution's parliaments. I said: All this will be forgotten. Let us begin with the democratic concept you see in Europe, the United States and all the states which build, accomplish and achieve. Let all the people form one family. This is the basis, the basis of the family and not the parties.

In 1923, they gave us to understand that the parties are the important thing and that the leader is the most important thing. No, what is important is the Egyptian family. The party process is nothing but a constitutional process the people have accepted so that we may have the one opinion and opposing views and so that the people may express themselves. This was accepted as the best possible position although this is not the ideal position. Democracy has many shortcomings but, as I said, 100 years of afflictions under democracy is a lesser evil than 1 hour of dictatorship. This because dictatorship kills self-confidence and plants fear. I had seen this happening for a long time although you might have read in my book that I started out believing in dictatorship. Hitler was our idol at the time. I adhered to this belief for a long time. I was one of those who voted against 'Abd an-Nasir on 27 July 1952, 1 day after the king left the country. I was in Alexandria when the king accepted the ultimatum. I returned to Cairo on 27 July. The revolution took place on 23 July and the king left on 27 July without resistance. We imagined that the British, with their 35,000 soldiers in the country, would interfere, and that the Americans, who began their march as the new force after World War II and who were the king's friends, would interfere.

We did not expect what really happened. We were surprised on 27 July when we learned that the king had left the day before on 26 July. We were responsible for the king leaving but we had no program or anything else. We sat down and 'Abd an-Nasir came that night and said: There is a decision we must make. We became responsible for the country as of 1800 yesterday when the king left. What is our philosophy? Will we follow a democratic or a dictatorial course?

Naturally, I was one of those who attacked him most vehemently. I said: Naturally, it must be dictatorship. Does this need any discussion? Gallows must be set up in the streets and all those who violate the people's rights must be punished. There were eight persons present. Seven opted for dictatorship and one opted for democracy. I am not ashamed to say this. I wrote about it and I say it. I believe that a person who cannot develop himself on the basis of what he learns or of what life teaches him is worth nothing. [applause]

As I told you, we are embarking on a new stage, despite the difficulties we are suffering today, such as the problem of telephones and services in general, transportation and others, and food security. We must be self-sufficient in food by 1980. The only exception is wheat, which we will continue to buy abroad. There is also the problem of housing and the population explosion. As I told you, 4 percent of the territory on which 20 million people used to live is now occupied by 40 million people. This must end. As I told you, I initiated this takeoff [in English] process. Anyone who travels today on the Ismailia-Cairo road will notice something very strange. Because there is a highway there, people have gone there and have started planting. I am glad about that. Whoever farms will be given the land, because he eats and still provides food for five others. I am satisfied. Nevertheless, I say that we are now in the glorious and most magnificent days of our life because we are embarking on a takeoff [in English].

I said that the concept of sound democracy, as it is known abroad, is based on the existence of something known as the Egyptian family. The Egyptian family has goals. All the sons of Egypt must be builders. The family has an eldest son who is known as the head of the family. I said that I do not pride myself and will not pride myself in being either the president of the republic or the leader of the National Democratic Party through which I have 316 out of the 360 seats in parliament. I will not pride myself on being able to do whatever I want as long as I have 316 seats out of 360. Not at all. I never pride myself. I pride myself on the fact that I am the head of the Egyptian family who says: Let us rebuild the family on sound concepts. There is an Egyptian family and it has national aims that are above every human being, party, organization and group. This is like what happened in Israel recently when the other parties voted with Begin in the Knesset.

When the whole Knesset voted for Begin, did that mean that all the Knesset members approved of his policy? I assure you that the majority are against Begin. But when Begin's position was collapsing, the Knesset members feared that this might affect the position of Israel. Therefore, all those who wanted to chop Begin up--they are all very hard with each other--all stood behind Begin. Why? Because it was in Israel's supreme interest and not in the interest of the Labor Party, Herut, the Likud, the Alinement, or others. This is what I want to restore. The Egyptian family is again the mainstay, thank God.

As for the formation of parties, in the recent referendum we ended the conflict the new Wafd Party wanted to initiate. The new Wafd Party appeared with the same old style and with one of the old pashas and began to slander the regime. The party was established, and the communists, the Nasirites and some religious groups allied themselves with this party and began to operate. In all, they do not constitute even 1 percent of the Egyptians, because 99.5 percent of the Egyptians support me, and wherever I go they come out. They were planning to bring back the old system. No, I am sorry. The public referendum was held and everything was put in its place. Thank God we have formed the Egyptian family. Its aims are completely known. Our aims are simply the Egyptian man's dignity, security, safety, prosperity and freedom. These are the aims of Egypt, which must remain the same.

In order to maintain a constitutional process and translate democracy into the method of the one opinion and opposing views, we established the multiparty system. Each party will form a family, but ultimately Egypt and its supreme national interests are above all. This is why I went to visit the opposition leader, Ibrahim Shukri, in Shirbin, his hometown and his party headquarters. Not only did I do that. Together with 316 National Democratic Party deputies I also signed a petition in the People's Assembly and before all the Egyptian people on television that for the establishment of an opposition party, the Socialist Labor Party. This is because the opinion and opposing opinions is an undisputable basis of democracy. It simply means that no one in a position of responsibility can be allured by the position and forget himself, because the opposition will always be there to remind him. This is the simplest thing it does, and even if it only does this, this is enough for us to live in security and fulfill our duty toward our country.

We established the opposition party. The deputies and I signed. A certain number of signatures were required for the party to be established according to the parties law. Some 316 deputies and myself signed to establish the opposition party. Ibrahim Shukri is the party leader. Why? I know Ibrahim Shukri from before the revolution. He received the prize that we all would have liked to receive. Do you know what it was? A bullet from the British. The police force in Egypt was all British. Three-quarters of you were not yet born in that period. The constable on the street was British. Ibrahim Shukri received the medal that all of us as young people were seeking--a bullet to fight for our country. Later, in the last parliament before the 23 July revolution, he was a deputy and a party leader who formed the Socialist Party. He defied the king, and the Wafdists imprisoned him on charges of disrespect for the monarchy. He refused to donate a month's salary, like the other deputies, in order to present a gift to Faruq, the crown prince. I did not bring in a man from the streets. This is a man with a history, but he is not an opportunist like the other pashas who wanted to form parties and who were prime examples of political opportunism and corruption and who represented the lowest depths to which political life could sink.

By God, we established the Socialist Labor Party, and I will always stand behind it and with it. Ibrahim Shukri was with me on the train when I visited his town, Shirbin. He stood with me at the window of the train, and he is the leader of the opposition.

When I was in Al-Mansurah, as you remember, I spoke about what the United States has done for Israel and for Begin despite his unruliness--the unruliness of Begin and Israel. I said: We are people who have manners and values. Well, we tell America: It is true that the lifeline does not come from America to us as it does from America to Israel, but America took a stand and said it stands by what is right. We said we will make a gesture [in English] by saying: America, we will adopt a decision in our parliament calling on the United States to join the treaty on the neutrality of the Suez Canal. This is a gesture on our part.

I remember that while I was talking to Ibrahim Shurkri, the opposition leader, on the train, he told me: I disagree. Just like that. He has the right. I asked: Why, Ibrahim? He said: I think the treaty must be abrogated. He did not object as the parties in the past did by saying occupation at the hands of Sa'd is better than independence at the hands of 'Adli. No. He objected because he said it would be better for Egypt if the treaty were to be abrogated completely. I told him: Ibrahim, I wish I could do that, but I might be accused of abandoning our international obligations. No. As long as the treaty does not affect the sovereignty and independence of Egypt, I have no objection. But this is the new civilized method which you are called upon to implement when you return, God willing. You will then find that we have already started on this.

This is why I say that this is one of the most glorious periods of our history. This is so because we are doing this and establishing these values despite the difficulties. Had there been no difficulties, we would not have been able to taste the fruits of our work, God willing. Difficulties give a good taste to everything. This is the way of life. This is democracy.

As for prosperity, you have all heard that I am rebuilding Mit Abu al-Kawm from the proceeds of the book "In Search of Identity." This book has grossed over $1 million in sales, which I sent to Mit Abu al-Kawm. I mention it today because those of you who are experienced in solar energy are invited to contribute in this field. I want to convert Mit Abu al-Kawm to solar energy. As you know, we have sunlight 365 days a year. Israel is more advanced than us in this field. It must not be ahead of us. Those of you who are in San Francisco, I want to tell you that a professor from that city told me about the research his university has done in the field of solar energy. I want you all to carry out research in solar energy. This is not solely for the sake of Mit Abu al-Kawm. I want to carry out a pilot project [in English] in Mit Abu al-Kawm together with the reconstruction, which is being carried out for the sake of the other villages. Why? I want to adopt the most advanced technology of the age.

I do not hide from you the difficulties we are facing. As I told you, we are not moving on a flower-strewn path. The takeoff I spoke to you about has no limits, but the path is filled with thorns. I reviewed the state budget with Prime Minister Khalil and Vice President Husni. After spending about 3 or 4 hours and seeing the figures, it became clear that Dr Mustafa has balanced the budget this year, but we will continue to limp. Therefore, after our discussion we reached the conclusion that we must have a plan like the Marshall Plan. I call this plan the Carter plan, like the Marshall Plan, to be financed by the United States, Japan and West Germany.

The three are dear friends and would like to do something for Egypt because it now has influence and importance. When we look at the Middle East now, we can see breakdowns occurring in Iran and Turkey. It is only Egypt that is ready for a takeoff. It is prepared for this takeoff with firmness, its 40 million inhabitants and strength. I believe this will take place. This will be my campaign for 1979. There will be no new initiative. This is over. As you know, the political issue--a solution between me and Israel--is now of second or third priority. Why? Because it is a matter of time. When they come, we will sign the treaty. Six months after that, they will withdraw from 5/6 of Sinai, and 1 year of so later they will withdraw to the international borders. I no longer have a problem there. Camp David laid down the basis for a solution to the problem. We no longer live in a vacuum or in a state of no peace, no war or the return to the state of no peace, no war. No. Camp David laid down the firm basis, particularly between us and Israel because things are clear between us and Israel. The document only requires implementation.

However, the main problem is the Carter plan, which I am working on. This plan will enable us to simultaneously work on food production, food security, the housing shortage and other problems. It will also enable us to work on the infrastructure at the same time. It is not possible to work on the infrastructure until we produce food, and it is not possible to postpone food production until we complete the infrastructure. The two are pressing together. The only way to deal with them is a Carter plan, that is a Marshall Plan or something similar, providing approximately $3 billion annually.

We can work at the same time on the services. We can rebuild the collapsed services and make them stand on their feet. I have great hope. I made my initiative and the world stood with me.

I pray to God to stand with me in this, because I hope, God willing, to begin the Carter plan in 1979. When you come back, God willing, you will come to a country that is in a new situation and is better than any country in which you are living. This is so first because it is your country and then because the takeoff here is better than in any country in which you are living. You will find the takeoff in full swing, accompanied by the supremacy of the law and the ability of a person to make something of himself. This means you can build for you children and grandchildren. You can win as much as you can as long as you give the state its share. The state will protect you. [applause]

This is what I wanted to talk to you about. I am glad you came now instead of in the summer. This is a coincidence, because as I told you, just 15 minutes before I came to you I signed the republican decree. After tomorrow, you will witness the ceremony. The vice president, the prime minister, and myself will have a small ceremony here to mark the transfer of the authority to the Egyptian people and the release of the talents of the Egyptian man. You will witness a historic stage. I am confident you will pass it on to your children. You will say: We were at this meeting in 'Abidin, and this and that took place. I have confidence in the capabilities and talents of my people, my kinsmen and my sons. I am confident that they will make great achievements, God willing.

I pray God to grant you success. Leave all your problems here. I am happy to say that Dr Mustafa approaches every problem with the organized mind of an engineer. He may take a little time to solve the problems, but he provides concrete solutions. I don't believe that you have a problem with me, such as housing, and so forth. Why? Because housing projects are underway. You can leave money here and make agreements with companies, which Dr Mustafa Khalik will establish for you, to build houses for you in no time. When you come back you will find your houses ready. We do not have problems in this respect in your case. The problem I have is with mass housing. There are tens and even hundreds of housing units being built here for you and your brothers who paid for them. My problem is with mass housing, which I will try to do something about. Apart from this, you can discuss your other problems with Dr Mustafa. As I told you, he is a person who knows how to provide concrete solutions. All problems will be solved, God willing.

I think that in the coming stage, we must make sure that our work is done perfectly. It is all right if it takes a little time, but it should be done well. We are in the takeoff stage, and there are neither restrictions nor anyone to be afraid of. This is our country and everything is our own, and we are free to decide our fate.

Convey to your brothers where you are my greetings and the greetings of your country, Egypt. I am very happy and very thankful to you for your gift of books. I talked to you about it last year. I asked Dr Mustafa to initiate the organization, which I wanted to establish a long time ago--and I am sorry for the delay. Dr Mustafa will investigate this organization, God willing. The higher organization for translation will begin with this library of yours at the prime minister's office. [applause]

I was moved very much by this gift because I asked you for it, and I am happy that you remembered the request I made last year. This is a good gesture. The other thing is: You know that I said that we do not want to start where others have started. We want to start where they have ended. I will never bring in old technology. Our technology must be the most modern. I will start with the latest technology achieved by the world so I will not waste the time of my people and country, God Willing

May God grant you success and thank you. [applause]

Answers Students' Questions

JN310620Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Dec 78 JN

[Report on question and answer session held by President Anwar as-Sadat immediately following his speech at 30 December meeting with Egyptian students studying in the United States, Canada and Western Europe]

[Text] Asked whether the districts will be responsible for all their taxes, President as-Sadat said: Exactly. Before we came in here, Dr Mustafa Khalil and I were just discussing this question. Of course there are taxes such as the big public tax. However, Dr Mustafa Khalil says--and he is right in this--what is the use of local government without appropriations and a budget? What shall they do? They will have this right, but within certain limits; they will not have a free hand.

Asked by a student how there can be democracy while 60-70 percent of the people are illiterate, President as-Sadat said: Theoretically, this is sound. However, on the spot, this is not sound. I will give you a very simple example. Had I acted according to what you are saying, the October war would not have taken place because they told me that the gap between me and Israel is a cultural gap. Furthermore, there were two kinds of wars in 1973 which the world did not know before--the war of the missiles and the electronic war. These two wars had never been fought before. It was Israel and I who fought them. Had I acted according to what you are saying, I would not have done anything. I will give you an example. They said that the Egyptian Army scored a victory in 1973 because educated people were in it. For your information, the ratio did not increase above 15-20 percent. One day, I was at the front before the October war. There was a missile battery. I told them that God willing, next year I will hold my watch and count the seconds for the implementation of the projects. I told them, listen I want to see. There was a missile battery on the front before the October war. I told them I want to see in how many seconds, not minutes, the battery will be ready for firing, because as you know in the air force, the speed is double that of sound. The second is very significant because the plane would cover a great distance. They went ahead and did the practical exercise. Everything was fine, fine, fine. Well, I thought this was due to my sons the university students, but the other sons who were operating the missiles, where did they come from? Muhammadayn from Suhaj said I am learning about missiles. I went inside the command center. The battery had a commander with the rank of captain. There were about five or six officers around him. This is a high level of technology.

When you come next time or this time, Husni will show you the SAM-3 batteries. You can see them and see how much we are working. We are at a very high standard which we must proceed from, not go back. I stood up and it was the first time I saw the SAM-3. It was a technologically astonishing and stunning thing.

Among these sons, there are engineering officers who are operating the missiles and the others are not officers. They brought me a cup of tea to drink. I asked one of them: Son, you graduated from the engineering school, what branch?

This captain is the battery commander. He said: I am not from the engineering college, I am from the army. I asked him: Where have you trained? Not in the Soviet Union but in Dahshur, he answered. There is better training in Dhahshur than in the Soviet Union. Therefore, and to be more reassured, during the first 3 days [of the October war] on the Egyptian front, one-third of the Israeli airforce was downed. Consequently, they issued the official instruction not to approach the Suez Canal again.

If we adopt your words we will not move forward. There is no gap. I am doing all this but I am not wasting my time. Alongside my work to eradicate illiteracy, I must not be behind. The people are progressing here. This country is an ancient one. It is not like any other Arab country. No, this country is an ancient one and has a sound cultural background. An Egyptian may neither read nor write, but he has cultural characteristics. You do not dare tell me of a cultural gap. There will be no return from democracy. Democracy will forge ahead and all the Egyptian people will stand behind me. These are not newly born people. They are people who understand shame and values. Everything is ok, but we must work to make up for all this.

A student then asked why the central department for mobilization and statistics has turned down the students' request to return to Cairo during their studies to do research in Egypt and to benefit from that research in their theses. The president expressed astonishment at this. He said: At any rate, and effective Monday, the day after tomorrow, if anyone wishes to come to the countryside or to the desert, I tell him that we have Al-Wadi al-Jadid. There is land and water, and anyone can do whatever he likes. The state is ready to make available all facilities. I deny this categorically. The president said: I want to tell you something else. Effective 1 January, the National Party will dispatch a representative every month to Western Europe, to the countryside and to all places where you are studying to explain to you all that has taken place during the month so that you will be in close contact with us, God willing.

A student asked the president to agree to exempt a car from taxes for every student, after obtaining his doctorate. The president said: It is ok when you come back, but make sure you do not sell it. The president then approved a proposal by a student to set up a central library in Egypt. Every student abroad, as well as the state, will participate in this library to build the Egyptian man on a sound basis.

[Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1230 GMT on 30 December adds that after the meeting with students, "foreign journalists and news agency correspondents asked President as-Sadat about the date of the resumption of the Egyptian-Israeli peace talks. He said that the time has not yet come for this and that he has no comment now."]

AS-SADAT SIGNS DECREES TRANSFERRING AUTHORITY TO GOVERNORS

NC3013357 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Dec 78 NC

[Text] At 'Abidin Palace today, President Anwar as-Sadat signed decrees transferring the powers of the president to the governors, each in his own governorate. The signing was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil. Earlier, President as-Sadat held a meeting attended by the ministers of reconstruction, new societies and housing during which housing policy was discussed.

Speech on Transfer of Power

NC0113507 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 1 Jan 79 NC

[Speech by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat at 1 January meeting at 'Abidin Palace to mark the transfer of power from the central government to the governorates--recorded]

[Text] In the name of God. My sons and daughters, every young man and every young girl, every man and every woman on our people's land: In the presence of all the representatives of the powers, I announce to you today the news of an event before which history will inevitably pause in the future.

This event is the transfer of power from the capital or from the central government to all the sons of Egypt in their places, in their governorates, in their villages, in their hamlets, in the desert--everywhere. History will inevitably pause before this event; it does not merely mean the transfer of power from the capital to the governorates, but also the transfer of power from its widest doors to every individual among the sons of our great people--be they men or women--so that they may participate in making and building modern Egypt.

It would have been practically impossible for democracy or the administrative revolution to attain what we aspire for them if we had not taken this measure with decisiveness and clarity.

At this moment while I am speaking to you, all the governors are now meeting with the local councils to study the decision on transferring power to the governorates. Power will be transferred to the governorates so that everyone in Egypt will participate in determining his future with full democracy.

Democracy is not represented at all by the fact that there should be an elected parliament and powers for the state in one way or another, as chosen by the states in a way tailored to suit their regimes. Real democracy means that the road should be completely open to every citizen in Egypt to speak his view and control his destiny with his own hands.

We will follow up this step. At the same time, as I said before, now that we have begun the new structure, there must be a new commitment and ethic. This might not be new, but I describe it as new because power was centralized in the capital alone. Because of this, some slackened in their duty on the basis that decisions would be made by the capital. There is absolutely no room for slackening at present. We have restored the people's power to the people. Every citizen must assume the affairs of his future and of self-building. An ethical commitment is essential here. Our democracy will not be achieved and will not achieve what we desire from it without an ethical commitment. There will be absolutely no restrictions on this broad democracy that has reached, as I said, to t the hamlets--not only to the governorates and cities, but also to the hamlets.

This democracy must be accompanied by a new conduct by which we can consolidate this democracy and through which every person in Egypt can establish himself and we can build Egypt the way we desire.

Power has been restored to all the people. What is required is that every person living on our land should assume his responsibility, as I said, through completely ethical conduct. This land is no longer the property of the central government or a group of rulers. It has become the property of those who live on it. They must decide their fate and its fate the way they choose.

This experiment which begins today is, as I said, a historical turning point before which history must take a long pause. Our generations must take a long pause before it.

I implore God almighty to lead us on the right path through consultation [ash-shura] as stipulated by our [religious] laws and grant us success so that we may build a new, strong and lofty structure of which our sons, grandchildren and their sons and grandchildren after them will be proud, God willing.

"Our Lord: Let not our hearts deviate now after thou hast guided us, but grant us mercy from Thine own presence; for Thou art the grantor."

KING HUSAYN INTERVIEWED ON CAMP DAVID ACCORDS, PLO

AU0217000Y Rome ANSA in English 1515 GMT 2 Jan 79 AU

[Excerpt] Rome, Jan 2 (ANSA)--Jordan's King Husayn has reiterated his rejection of the Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt in a long interview which appeared today in the Roman daily (?IL TEMPO). The monarch said that what is needed is an international conference between Arab nations, Israel, the United States and the Soviet Union.

"The Camp David accords have no value for the Arab world as a whole. The foundation for an accord must be very different: It must directly involve all the interested parties, including the Palestinians, for whom no one has the right to proclaim himself tutor."

As for Jordan's relations with the Soviet Union, Husayn said they are "good and founded on mutual respect and reciprocal cooperations [and] on very frank understandings." As for the United States, I (?hope) that in the future it will see that the prerogative for peace is not its exclusive right, but belongs also, to begin with, to the Soviet Union. Husayn also said that relations with the Palestinian Liberation Organization [PLO] are "good" and will be excellent tomorrow when differences are completely resolved and errors of the past surpassed. "We have in common a desire for a Palestinian homeland and we have in common the desire that Israel withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967, those same territories on which the Palestinian state will be created." Apropos the PLO, "the errors belong to both sides: [word indistinct] because we were unable to predict the consequences that an unestimated presence of Palestinians in our territory could provoke and which (?led) to the tragedy of 1970 (the "Black September" massacre, i.e.) errors on the part of the Palestinians who were able to avoid it and who associated themselves with extraneous persons which resulted in schisms and contradictions. It was a [word indistinct] and bitter conflict which must never be repeated."

KING HUSAYN CONGRATULATES NUMAYRI ON NATIONAL DAY

JN0118000Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jan 79 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable to Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri congratulating him on Sudan's independence day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and further progress and prosperity to the fraternal Sudanese people.

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM ALGERIA AFTER PRESENTING CONDOLENCES

JN3016360Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 30 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 30 Dec--The delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan returned to Amman from Algiers this evening after presenting condolences on behalf of His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government and people to Algerian officials on the death of President Houari Boumediene. The delegation includes the chief of the Hashemite Royal Court, the minister of state for foreign affairs, and the chief of staff.

WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR TO VISIT JORDAN IN JANUARY

JN0308040Y Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Jan 79 p 1 JN

[Text] Amman, 2 (JT)--West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt will visit Jordan later this month, the JORDAN TIMES learnt here today. Diplomatic sources said Herr Schmidt will be accompanied by a large multiministerial delegation for wide-ranging talks with Jordanian officials. The visit returns one made by His Majesty King Husayn to West Germany late in 1978.

MENA: LEBANESE FRONT OBSTRUCTS NEW SECURITY PLAN

NC0312015Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Beirut, 3 January--The MENA correspondent in Beirut reports that the Lebanese front has raised new obstacles with regard to implementation of the new security plan in Lebanon--the law that has been prepared by the Arab deterrent forces, the army and internal security forces commands, and which is to be approved during today's Cabinet meeting under Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis. The obstacles arose because the Lebanese Front set new conditions yesterday. It said it would agree only to the establishment of a security belt of Lebanese Army forces along the contact lines between east and west Beirut. This means keeping the Arab deterrent forces away and preventing them from participating in any security tasks in the areas falling under the influence of the Lebanese Front's militia forces as well as keeping the army forces outside these areas where the militia forces are assuming security duties. This means the continuation of the system under which the militia forces are responsible for their own security in the eastern area of the capital.

The Lebanese Front has emphasized this trend in a statement issued by its military body--the Lebanese Forces Command. It in its statement, the command said that its security departments yesterday began taking military steps that constitute an alternative to the official measures.

A responsible source in the command has stated that these measures aim at restoring normal life to the areas under the control of the front. At the same time, the Lebanese Front leadership has warned that any interference in the work of these security departments will be countered very severely.

This new attitude by the front reflects the pessimism evoked by the results of last Sunday's meetings and today's Cabinet meeting.

Lebanese circles and the press do not expect today's meetings to be decisive. They also expressed their belief that the matter will require a new round of consultations and a visit to Damascus by Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss before a firm basis for future security steps can be reached.

GOVERNOR OF NORTH SAYS SECURITY SITUATION GOOD

NC0216035Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Jan 79 NC

[Text] After a security meeting held today between the governor of the north, Iskandar Ghibril, and top level security officials in the northern province, the governor stated that the security situation in the north is good and that the holidays passed without any security incidents.

Voice of Lebanon Reports Situation

NC0216045Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 2 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Reports from the south say that yesterday and today armed men abducted 20 persons from Rumaysh and 'Ayn Ibil. These incidents occurred along the main road between Tyre and Sidon. In Tripoli, an explosive charge went off on Port Sa'id Road and caused material damage. In the Zahlah area, armed men robbed [name indistinct] of his money. The traditional axes in the capital's suburbs, however, continued to be relatively calm today.

ALGERIA

AL-QADHDHAFI MAKES STATEMENT ON LEAVING ALGERIA

LD312243Y Tripoli JANA in English 1802 GMT 31 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Algiers, 31 December, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1st September Revolution said: "We have to move towards completing the march begun by the late President Houari Boumediene." In a statement as he was leaving Algeria after having taken part in the late President Boumediene's funeral procession, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi further said: "This is a duty for all Algerian men and women who have at this time more than any past time, to adhere to the noble goals which President Boumediene had struggled for, the most important of which are people's power and Arab unity."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi emphasized the necessity of Algerian men and women adhering to the national unity and to forge ahead in standing by world liberation movements.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi concluded his statement: "The Libyans would always be with their Algerian brothers whatever the circumstances may be."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi left Algiersairport this morning after he had taken part in the funeral procession of the late President Houari Boumediene.

He was sent off by the Algerian acting President Rabih Bitat, and some members of the Algerian Revolutionary Council and government.

POLISARIO SECRETARY GENERAL MEETS WITH PLO'S 'ARAFAT IN ALGIERS

LD012135Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Secretary General of POLISARIO Front Mohamed Abdelaziz and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat met recently in Algiers during their visits to attend the funeral of the late leader Houari Boumediene.

Omar Hadrani, member of the executive committee of the POLISARIO Front, said that by their high-level meeting, the Saharan and the Palestinian delegations demonstrated in these crucial circumstances their interest in consolidating their ranks and their effective solidarity with the Algerian people.

He added that this meeting emphasizes the firm steadfastness of the POLISARIO Front and the PLO in continuing the struggle on the course drawn up by the late President Houari Boumediene.

Omar Hadrani described the death of President Houari Boumediene as a loss to all the oppressed peoples and all those struggling against domination and injustice. Moreover, it is a loss to the Third World which he defended tirelessly.

In his statement, Omar Hadrani said that the Algerian, Libyan and Saharan revolutions are in solidarity more than ever and that together they will continue the struggle and will transform the deep suffering, following the departure of President Boumediene, into a strong instrument in the struggle against the common enemy with a view to achieving the objectives of the great late president for the building of the peoples' Maghreb.

After pointing out that the Saharan people are still expressing their pain and sorrow, Hadrani said that the next all-out offensive by the liberation forces of the Saharan people will bear the name of "the offensive of Houari Boumediene" in memory of the late president.

He also explained that Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the POLISARIO Front, together with an important delegation of Saharan officials, has conducted talks with a number of heads of African and friendly states who came to Algeria to attend the funeral of the late President Houari Boumediene.

BITAT GREETS CUBA'S CASTRO, THANKS FOR CONDOLENCES

LD312330Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1905 GMT 31 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Brother Rabih Bitat has sent a cable to the Cuban president of the councils of state and ministers, Fidel Castro, on the 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution. The cable reads:

The 20th anniversary of the triumph of the victorious Cuban revolution gives us the opportunity to convey to the people and leadership of Cuba and to your own person our warmest greetings and best wishes for the success for the great Cuban revolution. I am very confident that the struggle, solidarity and the firm ties of friendship between our two peoples and revolution, our two peoples' adherence to justice, freedom and dignity, and also their common struggle against the imperialist intentions of neo-colonialism and reaction, will continue to develop and be consolidated continually.

The feelings of solidarity and condolences expressed by the Cuban people and by your person on our tragic event give us the opportunity to express to you the extreme gratitude of the Algerian people and government.

AL-QADHDHAFI REPORTEDLY SEEKING TO INFLUENCE BOUMEDIENE'S SUCCESSION

LD291203Y London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Dec 78 pp 1, 2 LD

[Excerpts] Paris--Special dispatch--Well-informed Arab diplomatic sources have told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that an Arab semi-summit conference will be held in Algiers this week on the occasion of the burial of President Houari Boumediene, whose death was announced at dawn yesterday.

The sources said that Algerian officials expect leaders from several Arab countries to arrive to take part in the national burial ceremony.

The sources added that, despite the fact that the question of electing a successor for Boumediene is purely a domestic matter since the Algerians are absolutely not in favor of other countries, even sisterly countries, meddling in their affairs, it is clear that Arab leaders are interested in what will happen in Algeria after Boumediene. It can be said that the leaders most interested in the Algerian situation are King Hassan II and Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

According to information available to French official circles, the Libyan president has been seriously active in Algeria since Boumediene's illness was announced. He is using all his influence to insure that Boumediene is succeeded by a man close to the Libyan regime such as Col Mohamed Saleh Yahiaoui, executive official of the ruling FLN party.

The circles say that Al-Qadhdhafi has never given up his ambitions to achieve unity between Libya and Algeria, something which Boumediene always rejected, and that the coming of Yahiaoui as head of state would facilitate the achievement of such unity.

The French circles are watching with great interest the post-Boumediene stage and hoping that a peaceful transfer of power to a collective leadership will take place because any internal disturbances in Algeria are bound to be reflected in the entire Arab Maghreb situation, whether with regard to the Sahara problem, the Algerian-Moroccan relations, or Algerian-Libyan relations.

OPPOSITION BODY CALLS FOR END TO BOUMEDIENE REGIME

LD0209311 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 5 Dec 78 pp 1,5 LD

[Apparent text of "recent" document published by Algerian "National Union for Freedom and Democracy": "Liquidation of Dictatorial Regime"--first paragraph is Le Matin introduction]

[Text] Opposition to Boumediene's dictatorial regime has just appeared within Algeria itself with the recent release of the document published in full below, which constitutes an appeal to all Algerian patriots for the total liquidation of the Boumediene regime. The text is as follows:

Declaration by the National Union for Freedom and Democracy:

With institutions built by himself alone, Boumediene believed that he could both satisfy international public opinion, the only opinion which he ever heeded, and at the same time guarantee his regime's permanence.

The situation created by his illness, which can no longer be hidden, and suddenly revealed to the public has quickly shown the public the emptiness of his institutions. The dumb National Assembly, its baffled speaker, the drafters of the national charter and the constitution who, on Boumediene's orders, devoted all their wiles to eliminating the survivors of the Council of the Revolution, are impotently witnessing the latter's recovery of power. The Algerian press, radio and television are expressing the panic and confusion of those desperately clinging and adhering to the regime.

With the dictator's sudden coma we have been set back 13 years. The one great difference is that on the eve of 19 June 1965 the people could have great hopes and Boumediene could promise the world. His 13 years of uninterrupted power have irrefutably shown the dictatorial regime's total failure.

A break with this regime remains the only valid solution for leading our country and our people toward a secure and harmonious development, real prosperity and freedom without restrictions.

As far as we are concerned, we did not have to wait for Boumediene to go into a coma to realize the vacuum which he has caused in the country in all fields. In our "December 1976 document," we provided a rapid outline of the gravity of the country's economic, social, cultural and political situation and put forward a possible solution which would extricate us from the predicament. Also, we never ceased to denounce the totalitarian government in our clandestine paper LIBERTE ET DEMOCRATIE and to demand a radical change in the current system and the establishment of a system of freedom and democracy.

Demonstrating the Need for Freedom and Democracy

Other voices have sounded the alarm in the past, especially on 9 March 1976; those of Abbas Ferhat, Benyoussef Benkheda, Hossine Lahouel and Mohamed Kherredine--supremely worthy representatives of the people's aspirations.

The time has come to demonstrate this demand for freedom and democracy. No person of good will can any longer deny the failure of the policy pursued for 13 years. If any further proof were needed, it would suffice to observe the confusion, disarray and shame in which our country is submerged and the distressing image offered to the world by what some dare to call Algeria's "political leadership."

This is why the National Union for Freedom and Democracy appeals to all Algerians aware of the danger threatening us to mobilize to reveal this new threat to our people and at last to establish the freedom and democracy for which our finest brothers and sons have fallen.

Letting the People Speak

Undoubtedly there are worthy persons even within Boumediene's system and even within the small group which survived what is called the Council of the Revolution--men whom events enrolled into the system and who have always known that Algeria is not the property of any one person but the fatherland of all. It is to them also that this declaration is addressed.

The National Union for Freedom and Democracy is organized and is struggling with one single watchword, one single method and one single objective:

One single watchword: The liquidation of Boumediene's dictatorial regime;

One single method: The national union of all men and women who will fully accept their responsibilities and free citizens, all honest, competent and patriotic militants from all areas of independent Algeria;

One single objective: To let the people speak in freedom and democracy to elect a sovereign constituent national assembly to decide on the new institutions, which will thus be the product of all Algerian men and women without exception and irrespective of their opinions.

Not a Matter of Replacing One Tyrant With Another

Building a truly democratic Algeria, after 16 years of independence, remains the Algerian people's basic aspirations because it is most closely in line with their past, their experiences of revolutionary struggles and the national realities of our time.

The dictatorial regime has collapsed. It is not a matter of replacing one tyrant with another. It is a matter--and only that--of putting an end to the usurping of the Algerian people's sovereignty.

We ask here and now our members, soldiers and all honest patriots and especially our old soldiers, our workers, our skilled personnel, our young people and our students to distribute this declaration widely and thus to contribute to the advent of freedom and democracy in Algeria.

[Dated and signed] Algiers, 26 November 1978. The provisional national directorate of the National Union for Freedom and Democracy.

EXILED FORMER MINISTER CALLS FOR 'LIMIT' TO SUCCESSION STRUGGLE

LD021629Y Paris LE MONDE in French 30 Dec 78 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "Recourse to Violence Must Be Excluded"]

[Text] Former minister, Algerian National Liberation Front member and Council of the Revolution member Bachir Boumaza, who has lived abroad for several years, has sent us a statement from which the following extracts are taken.

"The news broadcast from the Algerian capital, reporting a parachute drop of arms from a plane whose nationality has allegedly been identified, forces me to break a silence which I have deliberately observed hitherto.... Although every Algerian is free to determine in accordance with his own conscience the attitude he must adopt to events taking place in the country, commonsense and the most elementary patriotism lay down limits which must not be exceeded at any price.

"The first of these is recourse to violence, which must be excluded in settling differences relating to former government practices or the ambiguous circumstances of the succession....

"Then we must lay down clearly the 'rules of the game'--what is permitted and what is not. This crisis...is essentially an internal affair. As such, it concerns the Algerian people alone. It is up to those nationals who are perhaps tempted to explore every avenue, including external and unnatural alliances, to perceive the dividing line between legitimate opposition and treachery and dishonor. To foreign powers, large and small, near and far, whether officially friends or momentarily enemies, which each in its own way believes that it must have its say in order to consolidate established positions, recover lost positions or, at any rate, gain a political, economic or military advantage from what will ultimately be no more than an episode in Algerian life--to them we say in all fairness that they will inevitably lose in this game.

"It is no secret that the tragic circumstances--on a human as well as on a political level--in which a government which was eventually embodied entirely in the person of Houari Boumediene has to find a successor, give rise to more than patriotism and disinterest. It is not only in Algeria that these circumstances are liable to awaken unhealthy appetites which exalt devouring ambition as an ideal and vindictiveness as a political act... I must make it clear that at this perilous time for our country I am deeply convinced that the dividing lines between proper patriotism and certain attitudes bordering on treason lie both among certain oppositionists and deep within the corridors of power; good and bad citizenship are to be found on both sides, and no one has the monopoly of virtue....

"I sincerely believe that the circumstances are right to further the socialist revolution by introducing democracy, which has become a fundamental demand. Hence, every time that someone tries to use force to impose his views, he is merely postponing the advent of dialog and tolerance."

AIT AHMED ASKS FOR 'TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT' TO FOLLOW BOUMEDIENE

LD021631Y Paris LE MONDE in French 30 Dec 78 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "Ait Ahmed: Rediscovering Democratic Political Life"]

[Text] Former minister of state in the provisional government of the Algerian republic, Hocine Ait Ahmed, at present living in exile, made the following statement following the death of President Boumediene:

"The ever worsening political, economic, social and cultural crises in Algeria are attributable to the single party, the basis of the national charter and the constitution imposed on the Algerian people in the style and with the trickery of the statutes granted by the colonialists in the past. Since 1962 all the mobilization efforts aimed at 'broadening the popular foundations' of this party have failed.... So how can they expect to achieve in 45 days what they have been incapable of doing in 15 years? In reality, the only way out of the impassse for Algeria is to rediscover democratic political life.... There is no obstacle to the formation of a transitional government of unity and democratization, whose task would be to restore freedoms and organize elections to a constituent assembly.... The Algerian people are being systematically kept out of the 'succession,' but the days of contempt are gone and Algerians will be proven capable of taking the peaceful but determined steps which will establish democracy."

FORMER LEADERS SEE 'DEMOCRACY' AS MAIN TASK IN ALGERIA

LD021633Y Paris LE MONDE in French 30 Dec 78 p 3 LD

[Unattributed untitled report]

[Text] The Algerian Socialist Revolution Party [PRS] led by Mohamed Boudiaf, a former member of the provisional government of the Algerian republic, has issued a communique in Paris stating that "after shillyshallying for 3 months, the Algerian regime wants to settle the question of President Boumediene's successor secretly." The PRS added that "the (Algeria's) problems are still the same." After discussing "the deterioration of agriculture," the "failure of industrialization" the "Algerian masses' deteriorating living conditions," the "growing tendency to allow national resources to be wasted and to allow foreign, especially U.S., infiltration" and the "ideological crisis," the PRS demanded a "change in the political system."

The PRS is demanding "guaranteed rights and freedom for all citizens, the establishment of democratic institutions, the preservation of national independence and the reorientation of the economy in the masses' interests."

Mr Mohamed Labjaoui, former chief of the Algerian National Liberation Front-French federation and a member of the first Algerian Council of the Revolution, who is at present in France, has made a statement stressing the responsibilities which rest on the present transitional team in Algeria. He specified that its priority task should be "to establish a true democracy, respecting the freedom and dignity of each Algerian man and woman."

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI SAYS ALGERIANS SHOULD CONTINUE BOUMEDIENE'S STRUGGLE

LD311405Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, commander of the Great 1 September Revolution, returned to Tripoli at noon today from Algeria after joining the Algerian people in the funeral of late President Houari Boumediene.

He was welcomed at the airport by Brig Gen Abu Bakr Yunis Habir and Lt Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi. Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and the foreign secretary returned on the same plane.

The commander of the Great 1 September Revolution has said that we must address ourselves to continuing the march begun by the late President Houari Boumediene. Speaking on leaving Algeria, Brother al-Qadhdhafi said that this was the duty of all Algerian men and women, who should adhere now more than ever to the noble objectives for which Houari Boumediene struggled, foremost of which is popular authority and Arab unity, which had been his greatest hopes.

The brother colonal stressed the need for all Algerian men and women to adhere to national unity and socialist achievements made by the Algerian revolution under the leadership of Houari Boumediene.

It is the duty of all Algerians, he said, not to hesitate in continuing to stand by the struggling peoples such as those of the Western Sahara and Palestine, as well as the African peoples. Algeria must continue to play its vanguard role in the nonalined movement and in the Arab nation's steadfastness.

He said that these responsibilities now fall on the shoulders of all Algerian men and women. Their love of Boumediene should be translated into the continuation of the march for the attainment of these objectives.

The brother colonal said that the Libyans will always stand by their Algerian brothers whatever the circumstances.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF DPRK VICE PRESIDENT

Speeches at Tripoli Dinner

LD021100Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 2 January--Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud gave a banquet last night in honor of DPRK Vice President Pak Song-chol and members of the accompanying delegation. The banquet was held at the guest palace in Tripoli and was attended by the brother secretaries and department heads at the Foreign Secretariat.

Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud made a speech, which he began by welcoming the guest of the Jamahiriyah and the accompanying delegation. He said: It is not the first time we have welcomed Pak Song-chol. We welcomed him before and he knows the Jamahiriyah and its officials.

He affirmed that the visit will provide a good opportunity for strengthening and consolidating bilateral relations and also an opportunity to exchange views on the most important international issues.

Staff Major Jallud explained that the talks that friend Pak Song-chol has had during this visit have shown that there is a jcint desire to increase the ties of cooperation and friendship between the Libyan Arab and Korean peoples.

Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud stressed that there has been a big development in Libyan Arab-Korean relations since the Great 1 September Revolution. This development, he said, can be seen in the exchange of visits between both countries and in the results achieved with the Korean leaders, particularly the leader Kim Il-song.

He said that the people of the Jamahiriyah have great respect for the Korean people and for President Kim Il-song, who is considered a leader in the struggle against colonialism and imperialism.

Staff Major Jallud affirmed that since the Great 1 September Revolution, the Jamahiriyah people have stood firmly alongside the people of Korea in their struggle to let Korea occupy its place among the nonalined countries. He also affirmed that the Jamahiriyah people support the Korean people and will always support them.

He said: We will work together to safeguard the nonalined group to insure that it plays its role, stands on its own feet to serve humanity and that these stands are firm and lasting. We stress our principled adherence to stand on the side of the people of DPRK.

Staff Major Jallud affirmed that the Libyan Arab people, now that they have taken the reins of their affairs and become masters of their own destiny, believe that there are great possibilities for establishing a strong and unique friendship with the friendly Korean people.

He said that the great distance that separates both countries does not prevent them from unifying their efforts to defend their two revolutions, the nonalined group and freedom.

Brother Jallud explained that the nature and movement of political events and relations between nations has entered a dramatic stage, which makes it essential for states to adhere to independence of action and increase their potential and role to safeguard their independence and support the peoples fighting for freedom.

He said that despite events and the great change in interstate relations, there are many positive aspects in favor of the revolutionary progressive forces. The best example of this is the revolution of the Iranian people.

He said: We hope that this revolution, in which the Iranian masses have paid a high price, will not have victory snatched from it. And this is a victory for the nations suffering from high-handed and dictatorial regimes.

In conclusion, Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud expressed the readiness of the Jamahiriyah to cooperate completely with the Korean people and to be linked with them by strong relations, as affirmed by the brother colonel during his meetings with visiting Korean delegations.

Pak Song-chol also made a speech in which he expressed his thanks and the thanks of those accompanying him for the opportunity to exchange talks on the most important issues that concern both nations.

He said: I have visited some of the projects. We have seen and felt many of the great achievements the Jamahiriyah has realized under the leadership of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Pak Song-chol expressed the hope that the Libyan Arab people will realize many victories and successes in developing the national economy. He said: I am confident that relations between the Jamahiriyah and the DPRK will strengthen and develop.

At the end of his speech, Pak Song-chol saluted the Libyan Arab people and the leader of the revolution for the courageous and noble stands of the Jamahiriyah toward the Korean people and the people of the world.

Jallud Receives Pak Song-chol

LD021652Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli--This morning in the People's Palace Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud received Pak Song-chol, vice president of the DPRK, who is currently on a visit to the Jamahiriyah.

The meeting was attended by Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary, and Engineer Jum'ah al-Arbash, electricity secretary. On the Korean side the meeting was attended by the deputy minister for foreign relations and the Korean ambassador to the Jamahiriyah.

SAHARAN, MALAGASY, SOMALI OFFICIALS ARRIVE IN TRIPOLI

LD022228Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 2 Jan 79 LD

[Summary] Foreign Minister Ibrahim Hakim of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic arrived in Tripoli this evening for a visit that will last for several days. In a statement to JANA, Hakim said: "To us--the Saharan people--the Jamahiriyah is our second country; it is also the mecca of all revolutionaries in the world. In our struggle, we proceed from the thoughts of the leader of the 1 September Revolution as well as of our own leader. He stresses the need for the solidarity of all progressive forces with the Algerian people following the tragic loss of the struggler Houari Boumediene."

Malagasy Foreign Minister Jalil [as heard] also arrived in Tripoli for a visit during which he will have talks on consolidating mutual cooperation. He expressed his happiness to be in the Jamahiriyah, and he conveyed greetings from his people to the people of Jamahiriyah.

"Col Ahmad Sahal, member of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party Central Committee and head of the party's foreign affairs office, also arrived in Tripoli for a visit of several days."

LIBYA GIVES SUPPORT MONEY TO WEST BANK MUNICIPALITIES

JN311546Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 31 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 31 December--Salih as-Sanusi, ambassador of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Amman, deposited today the sume of $800,000 in the accounts of the cities of Nabulus and Qalqilyah at the Arab Bank in Amman.

Libyan Embassy sources stated that this sum is part of Libya's commitment to support several occupied West Bank municipalities.

MAURITANIA

PRESIDENT HINTS AT NEW POSITION ON SAHARA CONFLICT

PA012151Y Paris AFP in French 1742 GMT 1 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 1 Jan (AFP)--Mauritanian Chief of State Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, in a speech to the nation today, gave assurances that Mauritania "will take all the necessary measures to definitely get out of the war" in the Western Sahara if "efforts" to reach a general agreement "remain impracticable." The chief of state also reaffirmed his respect for the "intangible principle of the self-determination of peoples."

President Saleck emphasized, however, that he does not "despair of advancing, despite the evident difficulties, on the path to a general agreement to bring peace to the region. However, if this path should remain impracticable despite our efforts," he said, "Mauritania would for its part take all necessary measures to definitely extricate itself from the war, without detriment to the role that it might continue to play in establishing a climate of peace and cooperation among all brother and neighbor peoples."

"We are determined to bring about peace and concord, and we will not accept a situation of deliberate obstruction," President Saleck added. "We speak of peace with an open mind and are willing to listen to all proposals designed to stop the fratricidal conflict," he said.

"Our country remains unbowed and continues to seek peace for objective reasons and without the slightest intention of capitulating," President Saleck stated.

Observers in Nouakchott note that this is the first time that the Mauritanian chief of state has implicitly threatened to change his position regarding the Sahara question. So far, like Morocco, he has always sought an agreement among all the interested parties. This new hardening of the Mauritanian position, less than 1 week after the death of Algerian President Houari Boumediene, could have an important influence on the course of the conflict, observers believe.

FOREIGN MINISTER PLEASED BY VISIT TO ALGERIA

PA3012587 Paris AFP in English 1230 GMT 30 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, Dec 30 (AFP)--Mauritania's Foreign Minister Cheikh Ould Mohamed Laghdaf said on his return from Algerian President Houari Boumediene's funeral that he believes his visit to Algeria will "certainly" help a resumption of relations between the two countries.

Diplomatic relations between Algeria and Mauritania were broken in March 1976 because of the war between the Algerian-backed Western Sahara liberation movement POLISARIO and Morocco and Mauritania, which between them partitioned the former Spanish Sahara under agreement with Madrid in 1975.

Mr Laghdaf's visit was the first by a Mauritanian minister since the diplomatic break. He said he believed the Algerians were "very satisfied" by it.

He had been "very well received" by the Algerian authorities, he said.

CULTURE MINISTER COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA

LD0223407 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] Mohamed Yehdi Ould Breidelleil, minister of culture and information and official spokesman for the government, explained the significance of having our country represented by a high-level delegation led by the foreign minister at the funeral of late Algerian President Houari Boumediene. He said that it was natural in view of the ties which bind the Mauritanian and Algerian people. In his statement to the MAURITANIAN PRESS AGENCY, he said: We wanted to share in the grief of the fraternal Algerian people in their painful and critical period.

Asked whether this will have repercussions with regard to the future of Mauritanian-Algerian relations, the official spokesman said that Mauritania, as the chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery had frequently declared, aimed, under the leadership of the 10 July movement, to resume friendly and brotherly relations with Algeria. Within that context, Mauritania has once and for all put and end to the attitude of hostility adopted by the defunct regime toward that sister country. He said: We have never consulted with anyone as to the attitude we should take in this connection because our philosophy is opposed to the expediency of seeking the views of others on matters that are of no concern to them. He added that the attitude taken in this respect was inspired purely by our own will, and that we had not consulted any country, contrary to reports by some news agencies.

SALECK MEETS VISITING CHINESE FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION

LD022337Y Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery and head of government, this evening received a delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries, which is on a visit to our country. The delegation is to attend a dinner given in its honor by its chairman. Earlier, it was received by the foreign and culture and information ministers.

MOROCCO

STATEMENT ISSUED ON ALGERIA'S REBUFF OF FUNERAL DELEGATION

LD300005Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Information Ministry statement]

[Text] Immediately after the announcement of the death of President Boumediene, his majesty decided to send a delegation led by the prime minister to represent his majesty at the late president's funeral. This was immediately communicated to the Algerian ambassador in Paris, who, in turn, conveyed the royal decision to the Algerian authorities.

It appeared that Morocco's participation in the burial ceremonies for the president was received with great satisfaction in the Algerian capital. At the same time, Nouakchott authorities inquired of his majesty as to what they should do under such circumstances. His majesty's answer was quick and clear: Mauritania and Morocco could not be absent from the funeral of President Boumediene, not merely because it was a tribute to the person of the dead president, but also because solidarity among the Maghreb countries--the solidarity that remains at any rate one of the basic foundations of our joint work--dictates to us that we should stand by our Algerian brothers in their grief.

The same feelings of solidarity was spontaneously expressed by Morocco wholly and completely. All political organizations in the country without exception have sent cables of condolences and support. A similar cable was sent in the name of the Moroccan Government and signed by M'hamed Boucetta to Mr Bouteflika.

Regrettably, on the evening of the same day--Wednesday, 27 December--officials in the Algerian capital made it clear to our ambassador in Paris through their ambassador there that the presence of a Moroccan delegation at the funeral of President Boumediene was something they did not desire.

The royal decision that Morocco should be represented at the burial ceremonies for the Algerian president was made only out of his majesty's desire to honor the person of the Algerian president in a final farewell and because of his deep adherence to the unity of the Arab Maghreb. Morocco at first did not allow itself to be discouraged by the attitude of the Algerian leaders. Long talks were held to give these officials a better understanding of the value of the supreme interests of the Arab Maghreb and thus abandon their decision. Since the Algerian officials persisted in their refusal, the Moroccan delegation reluctantly renounced going to Algiers.

Despite all of this, the Algerian people should be confident that all Moroccan people share their grief and that under all circumstances Maghreb fraternity will persist.

KING COMMENTS ON ALGERIA'S REFUSAL OF MOROCCAN DELEGATION

LD310024Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Dec 78 LD

[Text] In an interview with Edouard Sablier of French Radio, the king was asked why Morocco was not represented at the funeral of President Boumediene. The king replied: Because Morocco was not allowed to send a representative. So far, we do not know why. Details of the incident were described in a statement issued by the Ministry of Information. In so far as public opinion is concerned, I think the statement was clear. The king added: If you require clarification on any points, I am prepared to provide them.

The French journalist then asked: I know that President Boumediene was opposed to many of your policies, but we were surprised to see that the Algerians were unwilling to receive a Moroccan delegation--something that might indicate a willingness to change on the part of both countries.

The king replied: I was indeed surprised. Everyone now knows that President Boumediene and I were to have met in Brussels or somewhere nearby. His closest aides knew it: Abdelaziz Bouteflika, his foreign minister; Dr (Talib al-Ibrahimi), who (?never left him); and Colonel (Merbah), chief of military security. They were all close to him.

The French reporter then asked if the Council of the Revolution was aware of this liaison.

The king replied: Some members of the council may have been aware of it, but not every one of them knew. In any case, news of this kind never remains secret once four or five people know about it. What is important is that the Algerian Government and the president's closest aides knew. But, had the president not become ill, we would have met to find a solution for the situation. Such a solution may have been found during our meeting. In fact, the funeral would have been a suitable occasion; for there was no question of protocol as to who went to see whom. When the president died, it was our decision to send our prime minister, particularly since there were signs of detente. I was even more surprised by what the Algerian ambassador in Paris said to Youssef Ben Abbes. He said: We want to know who is to accompany the prime minister, and (?for how long) they intended to stay. Second, he said: We want the Moroccan delegation to be among the first to arrive, because we want to talk. Then suddenly, a few hours after these words, came the reversal. This was contained in a cable sent to Rabat that said that Morocco was not wanted. In brief, there is no paradox here, but rather two camps--the doves and the hawks. At the moment, the hawks have the upper hand. Why? Because our Algerian friends are still misjudging the situation. They want to cling to the legitimacy advocated by Houari Boumediene. I believe that there are other fields in which they could apply this legitimacy and assert the influence of the president, particularly since we were to have met on 25 November. Had they been really intelligent, they would have toed their leader's line.

In reply to a question as to what the hawks wanted from Morocco--if they wanted war or wished the situation to continue as it is now, or if they wanted talks to be conducted in a suitable atmosphere--the king said: In my analysis, as soon as I heard that the president was in a coma, I thought that in the first few months following his death, his successors would display a certain extremism in their foreign policy.

That would permit them to make some internal concessions. In the economic sphere, and on the level of freedom and representation in enterprises, and in various other fields, the pressure is very great. To achieve internal security and guarantee their positions, they cannot immediately make internal and external concessions. They have to go to extremes in some way. They decided to take an extremist view in the field of foreign policy so that they could make more concessions in internal policies. The French journalist then asked the king: It would be unnatural to ask your majesty about the outcome of what is happening now--that would be interference in the affairs of a neighboring country. However, during our last interview, you said that in view of the size and seriousness of their internal problems, the Algerian Government will, sooner or later, have to limit its expensive and futile obligations abroad. Do you still hold that view? The king replied: Certainly, but not during the first few months. The French reporter asked if that meant there would be a certain extremism at first; if the refusal to receive the Moroccan delegation was an indication of such extremism. The king said: The history of Algeria will have a period known as the post-Boumediene era. The situation will change.

SUDAN

AMMAN AD-DUSTUR INTERVIEWS SUDANESE CULTURE, INFORMATION MINISTER

JN0207187 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Jan 79 p 4 JN

[Muhammad Masalihah interview with Sudanese Culture and Information Minister Ali Shammu--place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] How do you assess Jordanian-Sudanese relations in this phase?

[Answer] Sudanese-Jordanian relations have always been relations of amity and fraternity. They have always been good relations. We in Sudan harbor all amity and love for the Jordanian people and its leaders. King Husayn is a friend of President Numayri, and the Sudanese people are a friend of the Jordanian people. We implore God the Almighty that these relations will grow stronger. My greetings to the Jordanian people.

[Question] Sudan was among the Arab states that supported the Camp David agreements. Undoubtedly, Sudan had certain considerations when it approved these agreements. Would you kindly discuss these considerations?

[Answer] Sudan was among the states that acted slowly in replying to or interacting with the results of Camp David. The various constitutional institutions, such as the Foreign Ministry, the People's Assembly and the Sudanese Socialist Union, studied these agreements. The result of these studies was submitted to the president, who visited the United States and met with President Carter immediately after the signing of the agreements. On his way back he visited President as-Sadat. As an Arab head of state, President Numayri had the opportunity to get an explanation from two of the makers and signatories of the agreements. He also studied the results submitted to him. These efforts brought about the statement issued by the president's office. The statement dealt in detail and with objectivity and awareness with the agreement on the framework for the comprehensive solution and also the other agreement related to Sinai. The statement described the agreement on Sinai as a step on the path of the comprehensive solution. It also described the agreement on the general framework through which the sides concerned can achieve the comprehensive settlement. The president explained in his talk about the general framework that there are certain ambiguous points and several questions that were not answered in a definite manner, such as those on the West Bank, Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, the issue of the Palestinian people and the establishment of their state on their land. These things are ambiguous and unclear. [paragraph continues]

He said that he hopes that in the process of negotiations and through Arab solidarity and the efforts of President Carter, efforts will be made through this framework to achieve the comprehensive settlement that guarantees the return of Jerusalem and the West Bank to the Arabs and the establishment of a state for the Palestinian brothers. We believe that there is some ambiguity, but this needs work. Speaking more clearly, we believe that the framework is acceptable. The difference between President Numayri and his brothers in the other Arab states arises because they believe that the solution of this issue, which has lasted 30 years, can take place at once, while President Numayri believes that the solution can take place step by step. In the final analysis, there is no difference between the two.

[Question] In the last 2 years, Sudan was entrusted with restoring Arab solidarity and reconciliation. President Numayri is chairman of a special committee for this purpose. What in your opinion are the means guaranteeing the consolidation of this solidarity and ending the rift in Arab relations?

[Answer] I believe that the formation of the solidarity committee was a great experiment. I would like to mention in this connection that Jordan is a member of the Arab solidarity committee, which is headed by President Numayri. We all realize that there are many differences and trends existing in the Arab world. Arab solidarity is the key to eliminate all these differences. I believe that the Arab world should think about its basic issues and that some Arab countries should try to abandon their ideological differences and their temporary differences in order to achieve Arab solidarity.

[Question] Sudan is head of the OAU now. President Numayri, at the head of a conciliation committee, visited several African countries in the east and south. How much did these efforts made in this connection bear fruit vis-a-vis the solution of problems among the African countries?

[Answer] I believe that as an African state playing a major role to achieve African solidarity, we were and still are performing a major role. In its capacity as chairman of the OAU, Sudan has extra responsibility in resolving the African disputes. The chairman of the OAU, I mean President Numayri, followed up the resolutions of the African summit conference. Perhaps we might recall that on the 30th of last month, the committee of the African elders met to discuss the problem of the Sahara and to find a solution for it. The committee issued a statement to this effect. Also, a two-man committee was formed to contact the sides concerned. Few days ago President Numayri visited Uganda and Tanzania in an attempt to resolve the border problem. The visit was very successful, although the final results have not yet materialized. President Numayri also visited Zambia and understood the position of the brother leaders of the liberation movement in Zambia and Zambia's position as an African frontline state against the Smith racist regime, which attacked the interior of Zambian territory and killed strugglers and innocent people alike. President Numayri also visited Burundi and Kenya. All these visits were made within the framework of the OAU. As an African state and as an Arab state, we are playing a major role not only in the field of achieving Arab solidarity or achieving African solidarity, but in the field of achieving Arab-African solidarity, which we are working for. We hope that the second joint Arab-African summit will be held in 1977 [date as received].

[Question] As regards the Sudanese-Soviet differences, do you believe that the differences arise from differences in the political systems, or that the foreign policy of the two countries is clashing?

[Answer] I believe that we have a long experience with the Soviet Union since the outbreak of the May revolution. This experience has passed through several phases. The real differences between us are ideological differences. I mean that they have an ideology that we do not believe in. They have a doctrine which does not suit or fit us or our traditions and religion and experiences. The other aspect is the foreign policy practices. We are a nonalined country. We reject being a satellite of the big powers. We deal with people as they deal with us. We reject tutelage and plotting against our internal security. We reject threats. We look forward to seeing people who deal with us fulfill their pledges and commitments. We passed through very harsh experiences in our dealing with the Soviet Union, particularly as regards the question of arms and the other things we agreed to purchase. We could not find ammunition or spare parts for these weapons. Political circumstances have affected our dealing with the Soviet Union whether in the positive or the negative.

RELIGIOUS PARTIES TOLD FRIDAY PERFORMANCE CANCELED

TA021556Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin informed the representatives of the religious parties that the mayor of Tel Aviv decided to cancel the Chamber Theater performance scheduled for Friday evening. Begin said that the mayor announced that only this Friday's performance is canceled and this does not apply to the future. Mayor Shelomo Lahat told our correspondent that he does not intend to succumb to the demands of the religious parties even at the cost of their withdrawal from the municipal coalition. He met with the heads of the religious parties in the municipal council this afternoon and the participants in the meeting said that they got the impression that the mayor might comply with their request.

Representatives of the religious circles told our correspondent that they will also oppose the arrangement whereby the tickets for the Friday night shows will be sold during the week.

DEFENSE INDUSTRY TO BE INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT BODY

TA021449Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Jan 79 TA

[Text] At the instructions of the defense minister, the director general of his ministry began examining the possibility of transferring the entire production of the Merkava tank to a civilian concern, thereby removing its production from the Ordnance Corps where it is at present. This is reported by our military correspondent Roni Dani'el. The possibilities under consideration are to transfer the production of the Merkava tank to the defense industry or to establish a civilian concern for that purpose. Another possibility is to offer the production of the tank to a large industrial conglomerate.

Our correspondent also reports that in the future the defense industry will cease to be a subordinate unit of the Defense Ministry and will be organized as an independent government body. According to one proposal under consideration, former Defense Ministry director general, Prof Pinhas Zusman, will chair the defense industry executive board.

PERES COMMENTS ON SIGNING OF TREATY, AUTONOMY

TA021654Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres reiterated his estimation that the peace treaty with Egypt will be signed in several weeks. He met with Arab notables in the Galilee and said that he is convinced that after the peace treaty is signed a bitter argument with Egypt will begin over the autonomy issue.

The Arab notables raised various problems, such as the imbalance between Jews and Arabs in terms of allocating Housing and Construction Ministry financial resources and the need to find new ways to give the Arabs the feeling that they are desirable citizens.

HAMMER PREVENTS REMOVAL OF NABULUS SETTLERS

TA022011Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Education Minister Zevulun Hammer last night prevented the IDF evacuation of the Nabulus nucleus settlers. Our correspondent Yig'al Goren has learned that the last night the IDF had intended to remove the Gush Emunim demonstrators who have been striking for 3 days near the IDF roadblock along the Nabulus-Qalqilyah road.

Minister Hammer learned about this and called the prime minister. Following Hammer's appeal, the prime minister conceded and the settlers were not removed. The prime minister also promised Minister Hammer that he would ask the agriculture minister to look into the matter and find a location where the Nabulus nucleus could settle.

Sharon Meets Settlers

TA021559Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon today met with members of Gush Emunim's Elon More nucleus who are staying near an IDF roadblock on the Qalqilyah-Nabulus road. Our correspondent Hayyim Zissovitch reports that the agriculture minister met with them by chance, during a tour of several Judaea and Samaria settlements with the committee of daily papers editors. Talking with members of the nucleus, Sharon emphasized several times that he arrived at the scene by chance. Minister Sharon promised the settlers that he will pass on to the prime minister their request for permission to move to the site they have chosen for settlement.

MINISTER PAT REPORTS HALT TO CONSTRUCTION AT YAMIT

TA021918Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Housing Minister Gid'on Pat announced that at Yamit work on 216 housing units that were earmarked for private construction has already stopped. It was also decided to halt the construction of a school and of four kindergarten classrooms and planning more public buildings was discontinued. Minister Pat said, however, that 250 housing units that are in the final stages of construction are still being built. To date some 400 million pounds have been invested in building Yamit, and with the end of the work there, the investment will amount to about 600 million pounds. The minister was replying to a query by Knesset member Shoshana Arbeli Almozlino.

SHARON STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF SAMARIA SETTLEMENTS

TA021828Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon has repeated that the settlements in Samaria are a security requirement of the first order. Talking to the press editors committee, Minister Sharon said that it is neither the historic nor national consideration that necessitates continuing the settlements there, but the necessity to give defensible depth to the strip of land along the sea. This task has to be given to civilian settlements rather than to military camps, because the settlements have persevered always, while military lines can be moved, Minister Sharon said.

KNESSET COMMITTEE OPPOSED TO MINISTER OF ARAB AFFAIRS

TA021318Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Jan 79 p 2 TA

[Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee has rejected the recommendation that a special minister of Arab affairs be appointed. The recommendation was submitted to the committee plenum by the subcommittee on Israeli Arab affairs, headed by MK Amnon Rubinstein.

The majority of the committee thinks this is not a good idea.

MK Y. Rabin said that the issue should be under the prime minister's responsibility and he can delegate some authority to other cabinet ministers. Y. Rabin also said that if the subcommittee's recommendation is accepted that a committee of directors general be established to handle the Israeli Arab issue, it would be better to appoint the adviser for Arab affairs as its chairman. MK Rabin's opinions were supported by the committee.

The adviser for Arab affairs, Dr M. Sharon, told the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that it is difficult for him to function in the present situation. Thus, the committee decided to return the recommendations to the subcommittee.

PLO HOLDS CONTACTS WITH WEST BANK LEADERS

TA030753Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The PLO has reportedly held contacts with leaders from the territories in Amman. An East Jerusalem source told our reporter that the contacts were in advance of the meeting of the Palestinian National Council later this month. The contacts were initiated by Dr Hisham Sharabi who is considered a PLO moderate.

Further Details

TA030756Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Jan 79 TA

[Text] An East Jerusalem source told our correspondent that the PLO has held contacts with West Bank leaders in Amman. The PLO contacts were conducted by Dr Hisham Sharabi who belongs to the PLO's moderate camp. Dr Sharabi is a U.S. citizen and one of the heads of the Arab lobby in Washington. To date the PLO has seldom invited West Bank personages for the discussions of the National Council following its policy of not recognizing the leadership in the territories. There is only one member in the National Council who comes from the territories; Dr (Natze) from Hebron. He received his seat in the council after he had been expelled [from Hebron] over 2 years ago. The Israeli authorities have since allowed him to return to Hebron.

NEW WEST BANK PUBLICATION REPORTED

TA021301Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 2 Jan 79 p 6 TA

[Text] A new biweekly, AL-HASD (THE HARVEST), was published for the first time yesterday in the West Bank. The biweekly is published in Ramallah by lawyer (Husayn ash-Shiyukhi) who was one of those who welcomed President as-Sadat's peace initiative and who is considered as a person who opposes the PLO. The biweekly includes many pictures and articles about the Arab world and the territories.

ISRAEL-SWAZI STATEMENT ISSUED; SWAZI DELEGATION LEAVES

TA030817Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The Swaziland prime minister and his entourage left Israel last night after a 6-day visit. Menahem Begin saw the visitors off at Ben-Gurion Airport. The Swaziland prime minister, who also serves as his country's foreign minister and chief of staff, said that he had received a gift from Chief of Staff Refa'el Etan: two IDF uniforms including a beret and paratroopers' boots. In a joint communique at the end of the visit it was stated that representatives from Israel and Swaziland will occasionally meet in order to expand the cooperation between the two countries.

TEHRAN REPORTS PARLIAMENT AGREES TO BAKHTIAR NOMINATION

LD031054 [Editorial Report LD] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1030 GMT on 3 January reports that during separate closed meetings of the Majlis and the Senate on 3 January, both houses of parliament agreed to the nomination of Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar as the future prime minister of Iran by majority votes.

PARIS REPORTS BAKHTIAR INTERVIEW ON SHAH'S DEPARTURE

LD022146Y Paris Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 2 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] Will he depart or won't he? The fate of the shah of Iran continues to preoccupy all observers. As you know, the imperial palace has denied all rumors about his departure. However, the prime minister, Mr Shahpur Bakhtiar, today reaffirmed to a French television journalist that the shah was planning to take a long holiday. Listen to this document: [begin recording]

[Unidentified interviewer] You demanded the shah's departure for abroad--not his abdication but his departure for abroad. [Words indistinct] will he go?

[Bakhtiar--in French] I did not demand it. He agreed to go on a trip abroad, to have a rest and to appoint a regency council. [end recording]

Yes, well that is in contradiction with what the shah's spokesman was saying only recently, but, finally, as we have realized, things are developing very quickly in Iran.

AFP: PALACE SPOKESMAN DENIES SHAH WILL LEAVE

TA030833Y Paris AFP in English 0326 GMT 3 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, Jan 3 (AFP)--A palace spokesman denied today that the shah has agreed to leave Iran and have a regency council appointed, as Premier-designate Shahpur Bakhtiar stated yesterday.

"The sovereign has already said and repeated that he had no intention for the time being of leaving Tehran to rest in Iran or abroad," the spokesman said.

"And according to the constitution, a regency council can only be named in case of a prolonged absence of the monarch outside the country."

The spokesman said he considered that the shah would have to be away for at least three months for the premier to appoint a regency council with the shah's approval.

But observers commented that the repeated denials remained ambiguous, because they have all been qualified by the words "for the time being." The key question was (?what) exactly is meant by "for the time being."

Though these ambiguous denials have not closed the door on the possibility of the shah's departing, observers are convinced he has no intention of abdicating.

TEHRAN CITES EUROPEAN PAPERS ON BAKHTIAR

LD030946Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The remarks made by Dr Shapur Bakhtiar, Iran's future prime minister, have been particularly featured in European press, radio and television outlets.

European papers say that while Iran is beset with an unprecedented and historic chaos, Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar, with conspicuous courage, has decided to mobilize all his resources and energy to save his country from the present chaotic situation.

The papers say that with the resignation of the military government--which took place with the agreement of the head of state--the way has now been prepared for a national government to come to power. European papers further comment that the formation of a civilian government is facing many problems because of the present situation brought about by provocations, propaganda, rumormongering and extremists' intransigence. These difficulties could be solved through the efforts of those who regard saving the country from anarchy and chaos as their sole national objective and by those who are not afraid of the dangerous consequences of their efforts.

While criticizing the attitude of previous governments, impartial European commentators say that in exploiting the current situation, certain individuals are in fact pursuing their own personal objectives to the extent that they are bringing the country's foundations and its territorial integrity to the brink of peril, whereas politics should be divorced from intransigence.

European commentators foresee the possibility of the Iranian political deadlock being broken. They further comment that the future Iranian prime minister, with his moderate attitude, has adopted exactly the attitude that Iran needs in the present circumstances. European papers say that if the present disturbances continue, the sort of future Iran would then be facing could not be foreseen.

SENATORS ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATE MASHHAD INCIDENTS

LD021148Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Senate President Dr Mohammad Sajjadi has assigned Senators Mohammad-Reza Jalai Na'ini, Seyyed Asadollah Musavi and Fazel Farju'i to go to the holy city of Mashhad to conduct a thorough investigation regarding the incidents and events in the city during the past few days and to report their findings to the Senate after careful investigation.

The Senate will also hold a closed session tomorrow at 1000 at the request of Senate President Mohammad Sajjadi.

NEWSPAPER REPORTS ORDER CANCELED FOR U.S. HELICOPTERS

TA020945Y Paris AFP in English 0941 GMT 2 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, Jan 2 (AFP)--Iran has cancelled a deal with an American firm under which helicopters were to have been produced in this country, the business newspaper "BOURSE" reported today.

The paper, one of the few to be produced in Tehran, said the deal was with Textron and was worth 575 million dollars. It did not indicate the number of machines to be produced.

The contract was cancelled by the government on the grounds of force majeur due to the current situation in Iran, the paper said.

TEHRAN REPORTS ON DEMONSTRATIONS 2 JANUARY

LD021136Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Demonstrations were held today in Tehran and a number of our country's cities. Most of them were peaceful. Tehran had a calmer atmosphere than other days of the week today and its traffic was lighter than other days. While most gas stations are closed because they have run out of gas, there are long lines of automobiles and people at other kerosene and gas distribution outlets. Our city correspondent reports that in Azarbayjan and Dampezeshki Streets a group of demonstrators staged a march and shouted certain slogans.

Following the dispatch of a commission by the Eastern Azarbayjan governor general to investigate the recent incident in Mianeh, a meeting was held with Imam Jom'ah of Mianeh and several trustees of the city and the situation the past few days was reviewed. The commission expressed the hope that after the necessary investigation, the perpetrators of recent incidents will be prosecuted and punished.

There were scattered demonstrations in Shiraz and Firuzabad today. In the Firuzabad demonstrations a number of public buildings and several bank branches were set on fire.

Our correspondent reports from Kerman that while the city's stores and bazaars were closed this morning, the workers and the staff members of the Kerman coal company, supporting the city's educators who have taken sanctuary in the Kerman Education and Training Department for some time now, initially gathered at the Malek mosque and heard sermons by a number of religious men. They then staged a march in the Kerman streets. There were no incidents in these demonstrations. The same report says that this morning the mayor of Rafsanjan was shot dead by a number of unidentified people and one of his companions was also wounded. Reports also say that the cities of Rafsanjan and Sarab witnessed peaceful demonstrations today.

This morning nearly 100,000 citizens of Rezai'yeh staged a march in the streets of the city. This 2-hour march concluded perfectly peacefully.

AFP ON CASUALITIES IN KERMANSHAH, QAZVIN, DEZFUL

OW021918Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1853 GMT 2 Jan 79 OW

[Text] Tehran, 2 Jan (AFP)--Nearly 100 people have been killed in the past 72 hours in the town of Kermanshah, close to the Iraqi border in Iranian Kurdistan, opposition sources said here today. The dead had been counted at 93, he said, eight of them killed today.

In Qazvin, 150 kms (95 miles) west of Tehran, about 40 people are believed to have been killed in the past 24 hours and soldiers are said to have destroyed several doctors' homes and a government dispensary. A reliable witness interviewed by telephone there tonight said army tanks had destroyed a hotel in Qazvin as well as about 30 percent of the shops of the town and part of the bazaar. Troops had also fired on the town's two hospitals, and at least two doctors had been arrested, the same source said.

Usually well informed sources said fighting had also broken out in Dezful, in south-western Iran, with about 10 people believed to be dead, as well as in the port of Bandar Abbas, on the gulf north of Oman.

Iranian radio reported tonight that a "senior police officer" was stabbed to death today as he left his home here.

AFP REPORTS IRAN AIR EMPLOYEES END STRIKE 31 DEC

TA311839Y Paris AFP in English 1836 GMT 31 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 31 (AFP)--Iran Air pilots and staff today decided to return to work after a strike begun last Wednesday. Normal services are expected to resume on Tuesday. The airline's pilots and personnel stopped work on Wednesday demanding an end to martial law, release of political prisoners and suppression of the police security service.

The 260 pilots and flight personnel were also demanding that the airline employ only Iranians. There are currently 200 foreigners in the sectors.

However, informed sources said that the strike could resume after a few days.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS BEGIN WILDCAT STRIKE 1 JAN

LD011432Y Brussels Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Iranian air traffic controllers began a wildcat strike today. This action prevents many foreigners from leaving the country. The strikers let it be known that they will let only medical aircraft through and thus the Belgian military aircraft that should have brought home Belgian nationals from Iran is temporarily being held up in Ankara.

TEHRAN REPORTS STRIKE CONTINUES ON STATE RAILROAD

LD021140Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jan 79 LD

[Text] According to a spokesman of the Iranian State Railroad, the railroad employees who have been on strike since last Saturday in support of the workers and staffs of the National Iranian Oil Company are still on strike and passenger and freight trains consequently continue to be idle. He added that officials of the Iranian State Railroad hope that their negotiations with the striking workers and staffs will be fruitful so that at least trains carrying food and kerosene can be moved to the country's consumer centers.

PARS NEWS AGENCY EMPLOYEES TO CONTINUE STRIKE

NC021153Y Tehran PARS in Arabic 1056 GMT 2 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, 2 January--The writers, newsmen, translators and employees of the PARS NEWS AGENCY issued a statement yesterday in which they announced that they will continue their strike, which began on 31 December.

This statement said that the purpose of this strike is to support national aspirations and that it will continue until final objectives are fulfilled.

KHOMEYNI OPPOSES FORMATION OF CABINET WHILE SHAH REMAINS

TA291531Y Paris AFP in English 1523 GMT 29 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Paris, Dec 29 (AFP)--Exiled religious leader Ayatollah Khomeyni will oppose the formation of any government in Iran while the shah remains in power, sources in his entourage here said today. Conditions of his support for a new government were the departure of the shah and abolition of the monarchy in Iran, the sources said.

The statement followed confirmation by Shahpur Bakhtiar, a member of the National Front of Iranian politicians opposing the shah, that he had agreed in principle to form a new government.

Discusses 'People's Revolution'

LD292225Y Tripoli JANA in English 1625 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Paris, December 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Iranian leader, Ayatollah Khomeyni, issued a statement on the commemoration of the first annual anniversary of the outbreak of the present people's revolution in Iran affirming that this revolution is for the victory of Islam and for independence and liberation from the fascist Pahlavi regime.

He said that the people's demonstrations in Iran have proved that the Iranian people are capable of handling their affairs by themselves in spite of the provocations attempted by agents against the masses.

Khomeyni announced the 30th December a national mourning day in commemoration of the first anniversary of the revolution in Iran and the massacre of Qom, the elapse of 40 days on the massacre of the shrine of Iman 'Ali ibn Musa Riza, and the massacres in Mashhad and other cities.

Khomeyni added that there will not be any retreat from the march whatever massacres the shah commits.

In his statement Imam Khomeyni announced his support for the memorandum issued by those who staged the sit-in at Mashhad hospital last week. He also condemned the atrocious practices, dictatorship and usurpation of authority. Khomeyni announced his support for all strikes all over Iran and indicated his appreciation of the workers at the oil company. He warned of the attempts by the hireling authority to end the strike.

Khomeyni pointed to the military courts organized by the shah for the trial of strikers and called upon the people to set up funds in towns for supporting oil workers. He called upon the people to support military deserters who refused to assist the oppressor shah.

Khomeyni also called upon the people to continue their struggle until they succeed to overthrow the shah and royalty and establish the Islamic republic.

Names Oil Committee

WA300925Y London REUTER in English 1338 GMT 30 Dec 78 WA

[Excerpts] Paris, Dec 30, REUTER--The shah of Iran's leading religious opponent has set up a three-man committee to maintain contact with striking oil industry workers and guarantee domestic fuel supplies, his aides said today.

The 78-year-old Shi'ite Moslem leader, who ordered the strike in repeated exhortations from his headquarters in exile near Paris, said enough workers should go back to ensure the flow of domestic supplies. But he warned his followers that the ban on exports must continue until the shah was toppled from power.

The man named to head the oil industry committee is Mehdi Bazargan, administrator of oil production under anti-shah Premier Mohammad Mossadeq in the 1950s.

Other committee members are Hasar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a leading Islamic scholar, and Mostafa Katiraii, an oil engineer. The ayatollah instructed Mr Bazargan to nominate two other members of his own choice.

In addition to his absolute opposition to any resumption of oil exports, Mr Khomeyni set two other conditions for maintenance of domestic fuel supplies. They were:

--That troops leave the oil-producing centers, not intervene in oil industry affairs and stop threatening the personnel, and

--That the army should not stockpile oil and oil products destined for home consumption.

If these conditions were not met, the ayatollah said in his message to Mr Bazargan, "the illegal and transgressor government alone" would be responsible for any fuel shortage in the country.

Criticizes Bakhtiar

TA312335Y Paris AFP in English 1932 GMT 31 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Paris, Dec 31 (AFP)--Exiled Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Khomeyni today indirectly criticised opposition leader Shahpur Bakhtiar for having accepted a call from Shah Reza Pahlavi to form a government.

In a statement [words indistinct] the ayatollah said the shah was corrupt and anyone collaborating with him was equally corrupt. Anyone named by the present government to form a government was unacceptable to the people of Iran, the statement added.

The ayatollah [words indistinct] said to have drawn up a (?list of a government to replace) the shah. The list would only be made public, however, after the shah's regime had fallen from power.

The ayatollah said that after the fall of the shah the Iranian people would be called upon (?to choose a president) [words indistinct]. (?However, he would not be) a candidate for this office. There would also be (?legislative elections) once the shah was gone, he added.

KHOMEYNI DENIES OBTAINING ARMS FROM LIBYA, PLO

TA021334Y Paris AFP in English 1324 GMT 2 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Paris, Jan 2 (AFP)--Sources close to the exiled Iranian Shi'ite Moslem leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni today denied reports [of aid] or arms contacts with Libya and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Ayatollah Khomeyni, who leads opposition to the shah of Iran from his home in exile outside Paris, does not maintain relations with any "specific organizations," an aide said.

The denial followed a New York TIMES report that an aide to Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had offered arms and money to the Shi'ite leader's supporters at a meeting here on Nov 22. The TIMES report quoted European intelligence sources as saying the Libyan aide was accompanied by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

Informed sources had confirmed a visit by Mr Qaddumi but the aide stressed that the ayatollah had no relations with organizations and by implication, the PLO.

The TIMES report said Ayatollah Khomeyni had apparently complained during the meeting that he lacked adequate means to communicate with his followers in Iran. In reply, the Libyan envoy said his government would relay radio messages, the report said.

KHOMEYNI INTERVIEWED BY PLO'S FALASTIN MAGAZINE

NC022003Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1515 GMT 2 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Imam Ayatollah Khomeyni has expressed his appreciation of Iranian-Palestinian solidarity in confronting the imperialist and Zionist domination plans. He said that the government that will assume responsibility after toppling the shah's regime will not establish any kind of relations with Israel and will refuse to supply even one drop of oil to the Zionist entity.

Imam Khomeyni reiterated his position on the shah's regime, emphasizing that he will not stay in power in any form and that the Iranian people refuse to bargain with the shah's government, which has been imposed by the imperialist forces and which committed atrocious crimes worse than those committed by Genghis Khan.

Khomeyni added that the Iranian people are struggling against foreign control and domination and against foreign interference in Iran's internal affairs.

Imam Khomeyni made these statements during an interview with the FALASTIN magazine, which is published by the PLO external information in French, English and Spanish.

AYATOLLAH TALEQANI WARNS AGAINST GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA

BK291720Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1712 GMT 29 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29 (AFP)--Ayatollah Taleqani, a member of Iran's National Front (political opposition to the shah) called on the nation not to swallow the "fascist government's" propaganda about an alleged end to the domestic supply of refined fuel and bread.

In a "message to the people," the ayatollah asked: "In a country like Iran which produces more than 5 million barrels of oil daily, how could there be no reserve?"

"They (the government) are fooling you. In fact, the distribution and control of refined fuel are carried out by the army," he said.

He urged Iranians not to yield and not to stoop to queueing in front of empty gasoline stations but instead to support each other. He said there would be a shortage of bread soon. But he called on Iranians "to struggle for freedom" even if food ran out.

Meanwhile the ayatollah also reportedly sent a cable to the chairman of Iran's state oil company, notifying him that he had appointed retired Colonel Aziz Alhalah Rahimi as mediator between strikers and the company.

NATIONAL VOICE OF IRAN 18 DECEMBER PERSIAN COMMENTARY

LD302204Y National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary: "A Manifestation of the Iranian Nation's Firm Resolve"]

[Text] Dear compatriots, in response to an invitation from the ayatollahs and the religious leaders, the National Front and all groups opposing the regime--in order to pay homage to the memory of hundreds and thousands of the valiant and jihad warriors rolling in their blood and dust before children of our homeland who fell, the barbarous, criminal onslaughts of the shah's regime--today the Iranian people have resorted to a universal strike and protest. As the religious and national leaders were well aware of the plots of the shah's bloody regime and its black generals, they asked the people to refrain, as far as possible, from marches and demonstrations during this national strike and protest.

The universal protests by the Iranian nation--be they workers, bazaar traders, university professors, educators, pupils, students, administrative staff or religious leaders, in short, all the strata in our society--represent the mighty blow of a clenched fist on the animal snouts of the loutish heads of the regime and their black generals. The shah and his swashbucklers imagine that by threats, massacres and by orchestrating military courts of injustice they could bring to their knees the people who are fed up with and hostile to despotism and the corrupt Pahlavi court.

The universal strike and protest by the Iranian people, and their solidarity with the striking workers and staff of the government and private sectors, particularly the struggling oil industry workers, once again showed that the Iranian people are not prepared to retreat from waging jihad against this headstrong, criminal and unlawful regime, and will continue their bloody battle against it until the regime is overthrown.

In their consistent struggles, our homeland's people have shown the world that the Iranian nation is alive and does not shrink from any action or sacrifice along its march down the path of liberty, virtue and free conscience, and that no power is able to overcome this alive and battling nation.

The chanting of the slogans "Death to the shah's despotic regime!," "United States, get out of Iran!," "The oil nationalization law should be revived!" and, finally this universal slogan: "The shah betrays and Carter supports!," which emanate from the throats of hundreds of thousands of people every day and night in the alleyways, avenues, mosques and monasteries, have reached the ears of the world. The peoples of the world are looking with approving eyes at the valiant struggles of the Iranian people. With their national and democratic jihad the Iranian people have added golden pages to the glorious annals of our homeland's national and democratic movement.

The universal strikes and the Iranian people's shouts of protest, which have today reached the ears of the world, are at the same time a warning to the traitorous heads of this usurping and murderous regime, the agent regime of the oil cartel and the military-industrial complex of the United States and the Western countries; for this regime is brazenly and basely continuing its barbarous attacks, massacring the people in various parts of the realm.

Every day these attacks take new forms and come in different cities. The regime's impudence has reached such heights that now, with the help of a bunch of brainless agents and court (?toady) generals and lieutenant generals, it once again wishes to set the scene for military courts of injustice in order to punish the crusaders along the path of liberty. In particular, they are striking at oil workers and staff, and those of other administrative and production institutions.

It is being said that the shah's cossacks, emulating the methods employed by the Amir-Ahmadis, the Buzarjomehris and Shah Bakhtis [ministers under the shah] as well as murderers and gangsters [word indistinct] who have now monopolized the affairs under instructions from the CIA's emmisaries and the shah's other American bosses, will once again hold military tribunals in order, as it were, to teach the struggling Iranian people a lesson. These obedient lame ducks and houseboys of American military advisers do not want to realize the fact that the sun set long ago on this decadent monarchical regime and its hireling, and that such criminal tactics cannot halt the people's continued jihad, nor can they prevent the downfall of this bloody and hated regime.

The continued protest demonstrations of the Iranian nation are not only a proof of its awareness but also of the firm resolve of the people to oust this despotic and oil cartel-created regime. The mouthpieces of this unlawful and illegitimate regime claim that the strike by workers and staffs in various private and public enterprises, particularly the strike by the workers and staffs of oil industries, would harm the country's economy. These houseboys and obedient servants of U.S. military advisers have for years been watching the looting carried out by the oil cartel in our despotism-stricken country. In the last few years alone, the shah has squandered more than $30 billion worth of oil revenue on arms purchases. It is not clear where these gentlemen, who are speaking of damage to the country's economy now, were before today. Now that the Iranian people, including the brave workers and staffs of the oil industries, have staged a strike to oust the international oil consortium, to establish a national and democratic government and to prevent the country's oil resources from being thrown to the winds, the shah's cossacks and generals have risen to confront the Iranian nation and its workers on behalf of the interests of their American masters.

By their extensive demonstrations and by forming their national coordination council, the Iranian people have shown their solidarity with the workers and staffs of the struggling oil industry. By intensifying the struggle and by means of national coordination and solidarity, the antiworker plots of the shah's illegal regime must be neutralized.

19 Dec Persian Commentaries

LD311536 [Editorial report] The National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 19 December carries two unattributed commentaries.

The first commentary, on the oil workers strike, says that the strike has the total support of the entire nation, for the Iranian people do not want their precious resources to be plundered by this U.S.-subservient regime. The revenues from the oil have in the past been spent for the personal use of the royal family and the U.S. interests.

The second commentary, on U.S. support for the present regime, says that this support serves the purposes of the U.S. administration and the monopolies to try to save the present corrupt regime. Knowing this fact, the Iranian people have every right to take to the streets and to demonstrate against the shah and his government.

19 Dec Azerbaijani Commentaries

LD030100 [Editorial report] The National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Azerbaijani to Iran at 1745 GMT on 19 December carries two unattributed commentaries.

The first commentary is mainly an attack on pro-shah demonstrations, which are described as part of the American effort to shore up the shah's regime. The commentary says that the demonstrations are organized "by the American Embassy and the generals of the shah" to provide a semblance of public support for the shah, and that "this regime, ignorant of the demonstrations of millions of Iranians against the regime, calls the meeting of a group of SAVAK agents and ignorant persons a national outburst." The commentary goes on to enumerate the machinations used to organize such a meeting in Esfahan and stresses that to have mustered a mere 2,000 persons for this meeting in Esfahan, with a population of 600,000, shows what an immense flop this effort was.

The second commentary alleges that the United States is working hard to strengthen its position with CENTO, particularly by sending arms and U.S. military advisers to Pakistan. It also refers to "the American success in reopening U.S. bases on Turkish territory." The commentary mentions U.S. plans for a new alinement involving Saudi Arabia and Iranian involvement in Oman "in the role of the gendarmerie of imperialism," and concludes that these are important factors in determining the U.S. position on Iran.

30 Dec Azerbijani Commentary

TA011323 [Editorial report TA] National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Azerbaijani to Iran at 1745 GMT on 30 December carries two talks attacking the shah and the United States. The first talk says that Ayatollah Khomeyni, in an interview with a BBC correspondent, "has said that he sees a bright future for Iran, although before emerging into the light more sacrifices may have to be made and more blood shed." After quoting Khomeyni, the talk goes on to say that "Iran's dictator relies on the United States." The talk notes that "the people are fighting for liberation" and adds: "The task of all those who favor Iran's liberation and independence and those who oppose the shah's despotism and oppression is to intensify the struggle and to reject the shah and bring about his downfall." It then scores the shah's regime for "massacring patriots" by using the police and military.

The radio then carries a talk on "U.S. intervention in Iran's internal affairs" which, after saying that "Iran's unarmed people are being massacred," scores the shah for "allowing foreigners to interfere in Iran's internal affairs." It says the shah is discussing Iran's future and how to strengthen his position with U.S. representatives. After describing this as "a shameful move," the talk asks: "If the U.S. officials' schemes against the Iranian nation are not an interference in Iran's internal affairs, what is interference?" The talk criticizes the shah's regime as one "supported by U.S. oil cartels" and concludes: "The primary motto of our people at this stage of their revolutionary struggle is: Down with the shah's regime and out with the Americans!"

1 Jan Azerbaijani Commentary

[Editorial Report TA] National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Azerbaijani at 1745 GMT on 1 January carries a talk again scoring the shah and the United States. The talk says that "opposition political factions and groups, among which is the National Front, have said the Iranian people's final word that the shah must go."

The talk goes on to say that "although American circles have repeatedly stated that they have no intention of interfering in Iran's internal affairs, hardly a day passes without intervention." In this context the talk refers to intervention by U.S. advisers, the CIA, the Pentagon and the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and says that the "United States is shamelessly contravening all international diplomatic procedures." The talks says that the masses are shouting, "Americans go home." The entire cast is devoted to this talk.

BANGLADESH

GOVERNMENT WILL NOT RAISE PETROLEUM PRICES YET

BK020444Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 2 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The government has decided not to increase the price of petroleum for the time being despite the increase in import cost from yesterday.

ENA [EASTERN NEWS AGENCY], quoting an official source in Dacca yesterday, said the country's oil imports will go up this year by about $20 million because of the OPEC price hike and the higher volume of imports.

It may be recalled that the ministerial-level meeting of the petroleum exporting countries in Abu Dhabi last month decided to raise the oil price by 15 percent in stages during this year.

USSR DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER LEAVES FOR HOME

BK291559Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh and the Soviet Union have agreed to increase the volume of bilateral trade in the coming years. This was stated by the Soviet deputy minister for foreign trade, Mr Grishin, while talking to newsmen before his departure for home today.

Mr Grishin expressed the hope that some concrete proposals for the expansion of trade both ways could be taken up next year.

The Soviet minister described his talks with the Bangladesh Government leaders and officials as very successful.

INDIA

SRV'S NGUYEN DUY TRINH CONCLUDES VISIT, DEPARTS

Meets With Vajpayee

BK291623Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Dec 78 BK

[Text] India has assured Vietnam that it will consider sympathetically any proposal for technical and economic cooperation and assistance within its resources. The external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, told the visiting deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Duy Trinh, that the entire country is desirous of forging closer relations of friendship and cooperation with Vietnam.

The two foreign ministers had over 2 hours of talks spread over two sessions in New Delhi today.

Mr Vajpayee said the two countries can also explore the possibility of India joining in multilateral efforts for economic and technical assistance to Vietnam. India would be happy to provide experts, technical know-how and equipment. He suggested that officials of the two countries should examine the possibilities in detail. He was happy that Indo-Vietnamese relations has acquired a new depth and dimension in the last 2 years.

Mr Trinh gave an account of his country's relations with Kampuchea, China, the ASEAN and other countries, and also spoke about normalization of relations with the United States.

Both the sides stressed the importance of promoting peace and stability in the region so that these countries can devote themselves to economic development and mutually advantageous cooperation.

Mr Vajpayee told the Vietnamese foreign minister about India's efforts to improve relations with China but made it clear that this is not at the cost of existing friendships.

Meets With Desai

BK291503Y Delhi ISI in English 1431 GMT 29 Dec 78 BK

[Excerpt] Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh called on Prime Minister Morarhi Desai on December 28 and appraised him of the situation in Southeast Asia, particularly the border conflict between Vietnam and Cambodia.

Trinh, who arrived in New Delhi from Dacca on a 3-day visit, also discussed some bilateral matters and acknowledged Indian economic and technical assistance to Vietnam. He conveyed to Desai a message of greetings from his prime minister, Pham Van Dong.

Attends Vajpayee Banquet

BK300936Y Delhi ISI in English 0834 GMT 30 Dec 78 BK

[Speech by Indian Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at 29 December banquet in New Delhi for SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh]

[Text] Excellency and friends: It gives me great pleasure to welcome your excellency and distinguished members of your delegation once more to India.

The people of India have long admired the courage and tenacity with which the people of Vietnam fought an epic struggle for liberation. It is a matter of tremendous satisfaction that our countries enjoy such excellent relations and share a common desire to further develop and expand our friendship. At the beginning of this year we were privileged to receive His Excellency Pham Van Dong, prime minister of Vietnam, and since then many dignitaries have come from Vietnam and we have been able to exchange views on a wide variety of subjects. Many Indian delegations have also gone to Vietnam and have come back enriched with their experiences. Your visit has provided us another opportunity of exchanging views on the international situation and on bilateral matters. We have benefitted greatly from our talks.

Excellency, the people of our two countries are engaged in a common struggle to build a better world where the dignity of man is a cardinal principle, where society will be free from want and exploitation and where all can aspire to a decent life and proper utilisation of their talents. In this endeavor we believe that there is much that we can learn from each other's experience and such cooperation can be of mutual benefit.

We are all aware of the enormous tasks which your government and people have undertaken in reconstructing the economy of Vietnam. We feel certain that the tremendous abilities and capacity of your people will make Vietnam as great in peace as it was in war. We believe that the international community has an obligation to contribute to this effort. We are happy that we have been able to work out a programme of economic cooperation which not only serves this purpose but also enhances exchanges between our two countries to mutual advantage.

Excellency, you are visiting almost all the countries of South Asia. I trust that you have noted the improvement of relations in our region. It has been the policy of our government to place a very high priority on improving these relations in the spirit of beneficial bilateralism. We are happy that we have moved to establish areas of positive cooperation and have solved several problems of long standing through bilateral negotiations. We draw further inspiration for our efforts from the thought that reduction of tensions makes it more difficult for big powers to intervene or to use our region as a stage for their own rivalries.

It was our hope that after peace had been established finally in Indochina the entire region of Southeast Asia would settle down to an era of reconstruction and cooperation. Unfortunately, some tensions have now appeared. It is our earnest hope and desire that these problems can be solved by peaceful negotiations. We feel that the establishment of greater regional cooperation in Southeast Asia and in South Asia are mutually beneficial. As in South Asia, so in Southeast Asia we would like to see the region prosper in stability based on cooperation and trust between the independent nations which constitute each region.

India and Vietnam are both developing nonaligned countries. Nonalignment as a basis for foreign policy has stood the test of time and has attained ever growing validity in resolving major problems facing the world today. We share a common obligation and a common objective to work for the enhancement of peace and stability in the world, for the elimination of nuclear weapons and the achievement of comprehensive disarmament, for the establishment of a new international economic order and for the preservation of the independence of all sovereign nations. We look forward to close cooperation in achieving these goals at the forthcoming nonaligned summit in Havana.

Excellency, your visit has been short but I hope that it has been fruitful. We look forward to closer cooperation between our two countries in many fields.

May I request you to join me in a toast to the health of His Excellency Ton Duc Thang, president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; His Excellency Pham Van Dong, prime minister of Vietnam; His Excellency Nguyen Duy Trinh, vice premier and foreign minister of Vietnam; and to the friendship and warm relations between India and Vietnam.

Leaves for Katmandu

BK301022Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 30 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Mr Nguyen Duy Trinh, who is on a five-nation tour, left New Delhi today for Katmandu at the end of his 3-day visit.

Press Statement on Visit

BK301455Y Delhi ISI in English 1432 GMT 30 Dec 78 BK

["India-Vietnam Press Statement"--ISI headline]

[Text] Deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Nguyen Duy Trinh, visited India from 28-30 December 1978 in the course of a visit to some Asian countries.

During his stay, the deputy prime minister was received by the prime minister of India, Morarji Desai. The deputy prime minister of Vietnam also had talks with the minister of external affairs of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations and on international issues of mutual concern. The Vietnamese side thanked the government and people of India for their sympathy and support and assistance to the Vietnamese people in their task of national reconstruction.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the pace of development of relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries which stemmed from a spirit of solidarity and mutual benefit. The two sides discussed measures to further improve and expand cooperation in various fields between the two countries.

There was a wide-ranging exchange of views on international problems, including the situation in their respective regions of South and Southeast Asia, and both sides stressed the necessity of promoting peace and stability in these regions to enable the peoples to engage in the task of national reconstruction and development and mutually beneficial cooperation.

The two sides also discussed the consolidation and strengthening of the unity among the countries in the nonaligned movement and agreed to continue to implement the resolutions adopted at the summit conference of the nonaligned countries in Colombo and at the conference of foreign ministers in Belgrade. Both sides emphasized the importance of the sixth summit conference to be held in Havana in 1979 and were convinced that member countries of the movement will make active preparations to ensure the success of the summit conference.

DESAI DISCUSSES NUCLEAR, OTHER ISSUES IN INTERVIEW

BK020450Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister has declared that India will not allow any international inspection of her nuclear installations unless other countries also agree to it.

In a program called "Face to Face" broadcast from Delhi doordarshan [television] last night, Mr Desai clarified that nuclear safeguards will apply to all countries and not to India alone.

In the 45-minute program Mr Desai appeared calm and collected facing a barrage of questions by four top journalists. The questions varied from Sino-Indian relations to the Kanti Desi affair.

Speaking at length on the nuclear issue, the prime minister said: We are interested to see that nuclear weapons dissappear. (?If once) the nuclear powers agree not to have more weapons or explosions, then the safeguards can apply to all. He made it clear to the United States that India has become a member of the proposed panel of scientists only on that condition. The proposed panel will go into the entire question of nuclear safeguards.

The situation at home figured prominently in the program and the prime minister said that his government is doing its best to deal with the situation. The press can be of help in creating better conditions. He referred to the recent developments in Aligarh, and said a solution to the communal problem depends on bringing the communities together. Mr Desai emphatically denied the suggestion that minorities and Harijans have been alienated from his government.

He pointed out that for the first time in 30 years a minorities commission has been appointed. There is also a separate statutory commission to look after Harijans. Yet another commission has been set up to protect the interests of the backward classes. The prime minister mentioned the Untodiya scheme of Rajasthan and the Gujarat scheme of village adoption as government's efforts at improving the lot of the poor. What it required, he said, is to break the inertia in the villages.

On the Rajya Sabha deadlock on the Kanti Desai affair, the prime minister said this was just an attempt to create a difficulty. If this is resolved there will be something else. He also rejected the idea that Mr Charan Singh will line up with Mrs Gandhi.

In his reply to questions on neighboring countries, including Iran, Mr Desai said we are watching the situation in a calm manner. Whatever is happening in other countries is their concern. We want to maintain cordial relations with them irrespective of what is happening there.

On Sino-Indian relations, the prime minister said we are going about it in a proper manner. Mr Vajpayee's visit to Peking was postponed on health reasons and it is wrong to say that it was a diplomatic illness.

Mr Desai welcomed the resumption of diplomatic relations between the United States and China and called it a gain to world peace.

VAJPAYEE SAYS FOREIGN RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED

BK020445Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 2 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, has said that India's relations with its neighbors have improved since the new government took over about 2 years ago.

Mr Vajpayee was addressing a public meeting in Hyderabad yesterday. He said ties with the Soviet Union now have been reinforced and there is a new climate of understanding with the United States.

MRS GANDHI PROTESTS 'POLITICAL VENDETTA' AGAINST BHUTTO

BK310328Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Mrs Indira Gandhi has disclosed that she wrote to several heads of state the world over protesting at what she called the political vendetta against the former prime minister of Pakistan, Mr Bhutto. Addressing a meeting in Hyderabad, she said Mr Bhutto's case has been causing concern to her.

Mrs Gandhi admitted that it was a mistake to have amended the Aligarh Moslem University Act during her regime. Attacking the economic and foreign policies of the Janata Party, she said it is selling out the country.

MAGISTRATE ORDERS MRS GANDHI TO APPEAR IN COURT 3 FEB

BK021600Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jan 79 BK

[Text] Mrs Indira Gandhi has been ordered to appear personally before the first class magistrate of Doddaballapur, Mr Mohan Ram, on the 3d of next month for recording her evidence in the electoral roll case. The magistrate rejected her plea for permanent exemption from court appearance as he observed that no sufficient ground has been adduced to grant her exemption. He gave the order when she failed to turn up in the court today.

INDIA TO IMPORT 1.5 MILLION TONS OF SOVIET CRUDE OIL

BK300416Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Dec 78 BK

[Text] India is to import 1.5 million tons of crude oil from the Soviet Union next year. An agreement for this has been concluded between the Indian oil corporation and the Soviet oil organization.

IRAQ, UAE TO MAKE UP OIL IMPORT SHORTFALL

BK301024Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The petroleum and chemicals minister, Mr H.N. Bahuguna, has said there will be no shortage of petroleum and petroleum products in the new year. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said all contingent arrangements have been made to fulfill requirements.

Mr Bahuguna said that interruption in supplies from Iran will not cause any breakdown. He added that outcome of the recent joint Indo-Iraq commission had been very fruitful.

Mr Bahuguna said Iraq has agreed to supply 4 million tons of additional crude and 210,000 tons of additional kerosene and 450,000 tons of sulphur. He said another achievement of the Indo-Iraq joint commission meeting, which ended on the 27th of this month, is the trade agreement. Exports to Iraq during the next year will touch $154 million, against $100 million in the current year. This will be more than three times the figure for last year.

Mr Bahuguna said that the UAE will also give India 500,000 tons of crude.

DELEGATION LEAVES TO ATTEND CUBAN REVOLUTION CELEBRATION

BK291505Y Delhi ISI in English 1435 GMT 29 Dec 78 BK

[Text] A two-member delegation led by Dr Ram Kripal Sinha, minister of state for parliamentary affairs and labour, left New Delhi on December 28 for Cuba to attend the 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution on January 1, 1979. The other member is A.G. Asrani, joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

TIBETAN YOUTH CONGRESS RULES OUT DALAI LAMA RETURNING HOME

BK291237Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1230 GMT 29 Dec 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 29 (AFP)--The Tibetan Youth Congress in India has ruled out the Dalai Lama returning home so long as Tibet continues to be "under Chinese military occupation".

The Dalai Lama escaped to India in 1959 followed by an estimated 70,000 Tibetans since living in this country.

The congress, in a statement issued here today, was referring to the reported remarks of the Panchen Lama that the situation was favourable for the Dalai Lama to come back home. Panchen's statement was said to have been circulated by China's official news agency.

The Tibetan Youth Congress wanted the Chinese first to create an appropriate climates by demilitarising Tibet and to allow the Tibetans to exercise their right to self-determination before the question of return was considered by the Dalai Lama.

VAJPAYEE SPEECH AT DINNER HONORING MALDIVES' JAMEEL

BK2910352 Delhi ISI in English 0831 GMT 29 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Minister of External Affairs Atal Bihari Vajpayee held a dinner in honour of His Excellency Fathulla Jameel, foreign minister of the Republic of Maldives, in New Delhi on December 28.

Proposing a toast Vajpayee said: We have assembled here this evening to extend a cordial welcome to his excellency the foreign minister of Maldives.

Your excellency is not a stranger to India or to Delhi. We welcome you again in our midst as a representative of a neighbour with whom India has indestructible ties based on geography, reinforced by shared tradition, religion and culture. We have parallel aspirations and a common determination to achieve progress at home and peace and stability in our region and in the wider international landscape. As members of nonaligned fraternity we are both committed to respect independence and the right to have independent judgement and pursuit of policies which will further our national objectives and obtain an environment of peace and cooperation. Maldives, like us we believe, would like the Indian Ocean through which lies the artery of our international trade and cooperation to become a zone of peace untroubled by competitive military presence of nonregional powers.

We appreciate Maldives' policy of steering clear of military blocs, of nonalignment and of peace and cooperation with its neighbours. They provide a strong foundation for the development of our bilateral relations and for cooperation in the international forums in strengthening understanding and harmony among nations and serve as a disincentive to external forces interfering in the affairs of our region.

We have noted the rapid progress which Maldives has been making in the economic exploitation of its own maritime resources and notably in harnessing its agricultural potential. Although I have not visited Maldives, we have heard about the pristine and unspoilt beauty of your islands. This has naturally attracted interest of international tourism and opened the possibility of developing this potential to your national advantage. In our small way through the development of air links between India and Maldives we have contributed to this effect and we rejoice in seeing the rapid growth of tourism to Maldives.

Your excellency must be aware of the sincere and strenuous efforts which our government has been taking since it assumed office to build up an atmosphere of confidence and trust with our neighbours. We have resolved some old problems and have made beginnings which would promote good neighbourly cooperation. We have reason for satisfaction that in inter-state relationships in South Asia there are fewer tensions than in the past. In the framework of our vision we envisage improved relations and cooperation between India and Maldives.

We are glad that in the last few years and notably in recent months our bilateral relations have been strengthened. We had the privilege of receiving the president in his previous capacity as minister of transport twice during this year. Arif Beg, who was present at the inauguration of his excellency the president, came back impressed by the progress which has been made by Maldives. It is our sincere hope that on the basis of mutual consultations we can enhance this cooperation in a way which would be of advantage and contribute to the planned development of the Republic of Maldives.

As I have mentioned earlier, we have great interest in the growth of our friendship and our cooperation and an overriding interest that the ocean which we share between the countries of this region should become an ocean of peace where international commerce and cooperation can thrive free from the shadow of the great power military rivalries. In welcoming you once again may I request my colleagues to raise their glasses in toast to the health of his excellency the foreign minister of the Republic of Maldives and the friendship between the two countries.

NEPAL

SRV FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES 3-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT

BK301533Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 30 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The Vietnamese deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Nguyen Duy Trinh, arrived in Katmandu today on a 3-day official visit. He was received at the Tribhuvan Airport by the foreign minister, Mr Krishna Raj Aryal.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, the Vietnamese deputy prime minister and foreign minister said Vietnam wants to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation with Nepal.

Mr Nguyen Duy Trinh later called on Prime Minister Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista in Katmandu this afternoon. Briefing the press afterward, Prime Minister Mr Bista said both sides emphasized the need to uplift the living standard of their people and said that the countries in the nonalined group should conserve their independent identity.

Mr Trinh also held talks with the foreign minister, Mr Krishna Raj Aryal, in Katmandu on matters of mutual interest.

Received by King

BK311515Y Katmandu International Service in English 1450 GMT 31 Dec 78 BK

[Text] His majesty the king granted audience to the Vietnamese deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Mr Nguyen Duy Trinh, at the royal palace this afternoon. Foreign Minister Mr Krishna Raj Aryal, Vietnamese Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr [name indistinct] and Vietnamese ambassador to Nepal Mr Nguyen Quang Huy were also present on the occasion.

Leaves for Pakistan

BK011512Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 1 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Vietnam, Nguyen Duy Trinh, left Katmandu today for Pakistan after completing his 3-day visit to Nepal. Mr Trinh was seen off at the Tribhuvan Airport by the foreign minister, Mr Krishna Raj Aryal.

PAKISTAN

PRESIDENT ZIAUL HAQ RETURNS TO ISLAMABAD FROM ALGIERS

BK301722Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Dec 78 BK

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has just now returned to Islamabad after attending the funeral of the late President Boumediene of Algeria.